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Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2001 session (New York, 14-25 January 2002)

Summary

At its resumed 2001 session, held from 14 to 25 January 2002, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it 150 applications from non-governmental organizations, for consultative status, including applications deferred from its 1998, 1999 and 2000 sessions and its 2001 regular session. Of those 150 NGOs, the Committee recommended 56 for consultative status; did not recommend one; deferred 92 for further consideration at a later date; and closed consideration of the application of one NGO. The Committee considered 14 requests from NGOs for reclassification of consultative status, in response to which it recommended six organizations for reclassification, deferred consideration of the reclassification of six organizations and recommended that one organization remain in the same category.

The Committee heard an unprecedented number of representatives of non-governmental organizations, who were given the opportunity to respond to questions raised by the Committee. The additional information provided by the representatives facilitated the debate and the work of the Committee in taking its decisions.

The present report contains two draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council. By draft decision I, the Council would:

(a) Grant consultative status to 56 NGOs which have applied;

(b) Reclassify three NGOs from special to general consultative status and three from the Roster to special consultative status;

(c) Not reclassify one organization from the Roster to general consultative status;

(d) Not grant consultative status to one NGO;

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(e) Take note that the Committee decided to close consideration of the application of one NGO;

(f) Take note that one case of complaint submitted by a member State has been closed.

By draft decision II, the Council would take note of the present report and decide that the 2002 session of the Committee should be held from 13 to 24 and on 29 and 30 May 2002.

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I. Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant the following non-governmental organizations consultative status:

General consultative status

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations

Oxfam International

Special consultative status

A Centre for the World Religions

Action aide aux familles démunies

Advisory Committee for the Protection of the Sea

Africa Legal Aid

Argentina Association of International Law

Asian Institute of Transport Development

Asian Migrant Center

Association d'assistance aux grands handicapés à domicile

Association guinéenne pour la réinsertion des toxicomanes

Association marocaine d'appui a la promotion de la petite entreprise

Association marocaine de solidarité et de développement

Association marocaine de soutien et d'aide aux handicapés mentaux

Association of Former United Nations Industrial Development Experts

Association marocaine pour la promotion de la femme rurale

Center for Policy Alternatives

Coordination des ONG féminines gabonaises

Corporation for the Development of Women La Morada

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Dominicans for Justice and Peace — Order of Preachers

Exchange and Cooperation Centre for Latin America

Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance

Family Research Council

Guild of Service

Human Resource Development Foundation

Indonesian Child Welfare Foundation

International Communities for the Renewal of the Earth

International Energy Foundation

International Federation of Training and Development Organizations

International Planned Parenthood Federation (African Region)

International Society of Doctors for the Environment

Intersos Humanitarian Aid Organization

Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange

Leadership for Environment and Development

Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation

National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

National Congress of American Indians

National Rehabilitation and Development Centre

Native American Rights Fund

Network Earth Village

Network of East-West Women

Observatoire national des droits de l'enfant

Peace Boat

Population Reference Bureau

United States Committee for the United Nations Population Fund

Women's Political Watch

Roster

American Mothers

Association nigérienne des scouts de l'environnement

Charitable Public Fund "Poligon — 29 August"

Pioneer People Trust

Public Service Association

Soap and Detergent Association

Väestöliitto — Family Federation of Finland

World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities

(b) To reclassify three non-governmental organizations from special to general consultative status and three non-governmental organizations from the Roster to special consultative status, as follows:

General consultative status

Friends World Committee for Consultation

Union nationale de la femme tunisienne

World Information Transfer

Special consultative status

European Union of Women

Foundation for Democracy in Africa

International PEN

(c) Not to reclassify the Armenian Relief Society from the Roster to general consultative status;

(d) Not to grant consultative status to the International Lesbian and Gay Association;

(e) To note that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations has decided to close consideration of the file of the Education and Literacy Fund for Africa;

(f) To also note that the Committee has closed the case of one complaint submitted by one State against the International Association for Democratic Lawyers.

Draft decision II
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2001 resumed session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2001 resumed session and decides that the 2002 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations should be held from 13 to 24 and on 29 and 30 May 2002.

II. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

2. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 31st to 36th, 38th and 40th to 50th meetings, from 14 to 18 and from 21 to 25 January 2002.

3. It had before it memoranda by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/2001/R.2/Add.6 to 11); new requests for reclassification (E/C.2/2002/R.3); a compilation of applications for consultative status deferred from previous sessions (E/C.2/2001/CRP.5); and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions (E/C.2/2001/CRP.7).

A. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee as well as from its 2001 regular session

1. Applications for consultative status

4. The Committee considered item 3 (a) at its 33rd to 36th, 38th, 40th and 44th to 49th meetings, on 15 to

18 and 21 to 25 January 2002. The following NGOs whose applications were deferred from previous sessions were granted consultative status (see sect. I, draft decision I, subparagraph (a)):

A Centre for the World Religions

Argentina Association of International Law

Center for Policy Alternatives

Dominicans for Justice and Peace — Order of Preachers

Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance

Family Research Council

International Communities for the Renewal of the Earth

International Energy Foundation

International Planned Parenthood Federation, (African Region)

International Society of Doctors for the Environment

Leadership for Environment and Development

Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

Network Earth Village

Network of East-West Women

Pioneer People Trust

Population Reference Bureau

Väestöliitto — Family Federation of Finland

World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities

International Planned Parenthood Federation (Africa Region)

5. At its 49th meeting on 25 January, the Committee reviewed the application of the NGO.

6. Some members questioned the appropriateness of granting consultative status to an NGO whose parent organization already had such status, suggesting that no decision should be taken until the question had been examined and resolved by the Working Group. However, other delegations noted that a precedent had already been established when the Committee recommended consultative status for the International Planned Parenthood Federation (South Asia Region). Moreover, another delegation pointed out that historically there was a precedent for granting consultative status to both a parent organization and its affiliated or regional organizations, beginning with the World Federation of United Nations Associations, which was granted consultative status in 1947, after which eight national United Nations associations had been granted consultative status. The same delegation explained that previously the Committee had evaluated each NGO on a case-by-case basis, according to two fundamental criteria: that they had their own budget and that they had their own programme of activities distinct from that of the parent organization. On the basis of those two criteria and the provisions made in paragraph 8 of Council resolution 1996/31 and after satisfying itself on several substantive issues specific to the NGO itself, the Committee decided to recommend it for special status. However, a number of delegations expressed unease about the fact that not enough time was allowed for delegations to hear from it on many substantive issues.

Pioneer People Trust

7. At its 34th meeting, on 15 January, the Committee recommended the NGO be placed on the Roster following a debate on whether or not its primary objective was to assist individuals that were Christians to the exclusion of others. The representative of the NGO explained that, even though it was inspired by the Christian beliefs of its members, it drew no distinctions in assisting people from different religions, and had developed projects and assisted populations from different faiths in various parts of the world. However, a number of delegations expressed unease about evangelization, which the NGO had indicated was one of its aims on its initial application form.

International Commission on Distance Education

8. At its 2000 and 2001 regular sessions, the Committee had deferred consideration of the NGO's application in response to a number of concerns expressed by members of the Committee, including the unauthorized use of the United Nations logo by the organization and the organization's association with the

Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation. At its 33rd meeting, on 15 January, the Committee considered the response provided by the NGO to the questions posed by it and found them unsatisfactory. One member questioned the NGO's relationship with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and wondered whether or not the organization had consultative status with UNESCO. Other members of the Committee expressed a need for further clarification of the information provided by the NGO to Committee members. The Committee decided to defer consideration of the NGO's application pending the response to its questions.

Federation of Ijaw Communities

9. At its 2001 regular session, the Committee had deferred consideration of the application owing to time constraints. At its 34th meeting, on 15 January, the Committee considered the application of the NGO. A number of members of the Committee requested clarification of the statement made by the NGO stating that it represented 3,500 people in the United Kingdom and 12 million in the Niger delta of Nigeria. They wanted to find out how such a programme could be carried out. A member of the Committee also underlined the trend to microethnicity that the NGO seemed to represent. The Committee decided to defer consideration of the NGO's application pending its response to questions posed by the Committee.

International Society for Human Rights

10. At its resumed 2000 session, the Committee had decided to defer the application of the NGO pending its response to questions posed by the Committee. A number of delegations objected that their countries were listed and ranked on the NGO's web site as countries persecuting individuals on the basis of their religion. At its 40th meeting, on 18 January, the Committee reviewed the NGO's application. A number of delegations again expressed reservations about the activities of the organization. One delegation expressed its increasing concern after having seen the information displayed on the organization's web site. It was decided that the Committee would send its questions to the NGO's representative who would answer in writing. The Committee deferred consideration of the NGO's application.

Felege Guihon International

11. Owing to time constraint, the Committee did not review at its 2000 resumed session and 2001 session of the Committee the application of the NGO, which supports development projects in the Nile and other African river regions. At its 44th meeting, on 22 January, the Committee decided to hear the NGO's representative, with the understanding that a number of members of the Committee would require written answers to their concerns regarding the NGO's activities. Responding to questions by members of the Committee, the NGO's representative informed the Committee that the project it had with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) consisted of a programme to combat poverty. He also described in detail a food-distribution project in drought-stricken regions, where food assistance provided by Western countries did not meet local needs, and described another project on an organic waste management system based on processing by micro-organisms. The Committee decided to defer the NGO's application pending the response to its questions.

International Lesbian and Gay Association

12. At its 2001 regular session, the Committee considered the application of the NGO, an international organization previously on the Roster. In 1994, one year after the NGO was granted consultative status, the Council had suspended the NGO from the Roster in its resolution 1994/50, based on concerns raised about member organizations or subsidiaries of the NGO that promoted or condoned paedophilia. At its 1998 session, the Committee received a letter from the NGO requesting reinstatement of its status. The Committee deferred the matter to its resumed 1998 session. At its 2000 session, the Committee decided to ask the NGO to submit a new application for consultative status which the Committee would examine at a future session.

13. At its 2001 session, having reviewed the application of the NGO, a number of delegations raised questions on its registration status. Other delegations requested the NGO to explain to the Committee how it could guarantee that its members did not promote paedophilia. Other questions were posed asking how it screened its member organizations and subsidiaries to ensure that they did not promote paedophilia. The NGO was requested to provide the list of member organizations it had expelled. Other questions referred

to the nature of the affiliation of government organizations to the NGO and whether some of its member organizations had already been granted consultative status with the Council.

14. At the same session, the Committee objected to the NGO's representation by a lawyer. Also in response to its claim of being a signatory to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a number of representatives underlined that a non-governmental organization could not ratify or sign an international covenant or treaty. One delegation noted that the issue of homosexuality was a divisive one in his country, where examples of discrimination or violence had occurred because of an individual's sexual orientation. In that regard, he believed that the NGO could be considered as a human rights NGO, committed to addressing the plight of others.

15. The Committee considered the NGO's application at its 44th, 45th and 46th meetings, on 22 and 23 January. The delegation of Pakistan recalled that the NGO had lost its consultative status just one year after getting it on the charges of its members' involvement in paedophilia. He was of the view that its subsequent attempts to have its members sign a declaration condemning paedophilia had failed because more than half of its individual members and organization had refused to comply. He asserted that the organization has not completely disassociated itself from paedophilia.

16. Several members of the Committee and observers posed questions about whether or not the NGO's General Conference had called for the abolishing of the age of consent as far back as in 1986, and about the nature of its relations with its founding members, North American Man Boy Love Association. Questions were also asked on the nature of the NGO, whether or not its members explicitly condemned paedophilia, its view on sexual orientation and on age of consent laws, as well as its views on juvenile sexuality and relations between adults and children even by consent. One delegation asked about the NGO's view on the concept of sexual self-determination and the meaning of the discrimination based on sexual orientation. Some questions were posed on its activities in the field of health care. Some delegations posed questions about its contribution in the field of HIV/AIDS in Europe and its status with the Council of Europe.

17. Some delegations asked the representative if the NGO's General Conference was ready to adopt a public resolution condemning any form of sexual relations between an adult and a child, whether or not by consent. Another delegation sought clarification about how the Pink Triangle Press, a leading gay publishing house and an affiliate of the NGO, which had left the NGO in its disagreement about the requirement of signing the declaration against paedophilia, had been allowed to rejoin the NGO without signing the declaration. He also wanted to know how it could distance itself from paedophilia while it continued demanding that the age of consent for homosexuals must be lowered. One delegation wanted to know what the NGO considered child abuse and how it defined child abuse and paedophilia. Another delegation sought clarification regarding several different positions on paedophilia adopted by the NGO at its past General Conferences. He wanted to know whether it had officially revoked any or all of those positions. Another delegate questioned how the NGO's claim could be accepted that in its entire period of existence it had never promoted paedophilia, when it had allowed several groups promoting or condoning paedophilia to remain affiliated with it for more than a decade, while fully aware of their principles and orientation.

18. The representative of the NGO underlined that it took a strong position against paedophilia, which she considered a criminal act. She also stated that it had given powers to its Executive Board to suspend the membership of those who promoted paedophilia. Those individuals or groups who did not sign the declaration could no longer be considered its members. The NGO recognized the age of consent as 18, as required by the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Its activities focused on fighting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The representative stressed the importance of its action in connection with the special sessions of the General Assembly concerning women and on HIV/AIDS.

19. Several delegates were of the opinion that many key questions had been ignored by the representative of the NGO, while responses to other questions lacked clarity and accuracy. Questions considered to have been left unanswered included its position on the age of consent law, definition of child abuse, and the request for indication of the approximate number of members who had signed the declaration condemning paedophilia and how many had declined. They were

particularly dissatisfied with the representative's response to the question regarding the reaffiliation of the Pink Triangle Press. Some members were not convinced that the NGO has been able to establish beyond doubt its disassociation with people and groups condoning and encouraging sexual relations between adults and children.

20. Some members of the Committee, however, said that they were satisfied with the responses provided by the NGO. They acknowledged its work in combating discrimination because of sexual orientation. They were of the view that homosexuality and paedophilia were not linked. They recalled that the NGO had received consultative status with the Council of Europe, which meant it carried out valuable activities. They also acknowledged the work of the organization, particularly in the field of combating HIV/AIDS.

21. The representative of the Sudan reminded the Committee that the consultative status of the NGO was revoked in 1994 because of compelling evidence which had indicated without doubt the links that existed between it and organizations and people who supported paedophilia. She said that now that the NGO was seeking readmission, it was logically incumbent upon it to provide the Committee with conclusive evidence of its definite disassociation from paedophilia and those supporting it, and that the burden of proof indeed weighed on the NGO. She said that the Committee had devoted two days to the NGO and it had been given ample time and opportunity to present its case.

22. At the 45th meeting, on 23 January, the representative of the Sudan proposed that the Committee not recommend consultative status to the NGO by consensus. The delegation of Germany proposed to continue the discussion on the NGO, requesting additional documentation.

23. The Chairman ruled that the proposal made by the Sudan should first be put to a vote. After a procedural debate followed by the Chairman's informal consultations with delegations and the relevant departments of the Secretariat, the meeting was adjourned.

24. At the 46th meeting, on 23 January, following the Chairman's ruling to proceed to a vote on the proposal put forward by the representative of the Sudan, the representative of the United States of America appealed against the ruling and explained that the challenge of the Chairman's ruling was made in order to correct perceived errors in procedure.

25. The motion of appeal against the ruling of the Chairman was rejected by a roll-call vote of 7 in favour, 11 against with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Romania, United States of America.

Against:

Algeria, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey.

Abstaining:

Senegal.

26. The Chairman then proceeded to a vote on the proposal made by the delegation of the Sudan not to recommend consultative status to the NGO.

27. The Committee adopted the proposal by a recorded roll-call vote of 8 in favour and 6 against, with 5 abstentions (see sect. I, draft decision 1, subparagraph (d)).

In favour:

China, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia.

Against:

Bolivia, Chile, France, Germany, Romania, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Colombia, Cuba, India, Turkey.

Statements in explanations of vote before the vote

28. Statements in explanations of vote before the vote were made by the representatives of Senegal, Lebanon, Chile, Germany, Bolivia, Pakistan, Colombia, France, the United States and Romania.

29. In their explanations of vote before the vote, the representatives of Senegal, Lebanon and Pakistan echoed the observation made by the delegate of the Sudan that the Committee had given enough time to the NGO to submit additional information on its disassociation with paedophilia. They were of the view that since no conclusive evidence had been presented to the Committee by the NGO supporting its disassociation with paedophilia, it was therefore not

possible for them to recommend consultative status. One delegate did not find the NGO's response regarding the Pink Triangle Press convincing since it had managed to rejoin the NGO after two years and since its Executive Director had mentioned that it was no longer necessary to sign the declaration against paedophilia. He also questioned the lack of unanimity within the NGO, as an umbrella organization, on its commitments to paedophilia and the age of consent. One delegation said that the representative of the NGO had been unable to satisfactorily answer questions, especially the one about how many members have been expelled from the organization because of paedophilia. He was also of the view that the NGO's representative was not able to adequately answer his question whether its Executive Board was given powers to expel the members found involved in and encouraging paedophilia. One delegate said that there was a clear congruence between homosexuality and paedophilia. Another delegate said that the NGO had been accused of paedophilia, which gave rise to a number of serious social issues, and in view of the traditional and cultural norms of his country he would vote in favour of the Sudan's proposal.

30. The delegations of Chile, Germany, Bolivia, France, the United States and Romania pointed out that the responses provided by the organization to the Committee were satisfactory. They would have liked to continue to explore the matter further until all doubts were removed on the NGO's views on paedophilia. They believed that additional time should be given to the NGO since some delegations had felt their questions were not sufficiently answered. One delegation stated that no proof had been presented that showed that the NGO currently maintained affiliations with any organizations that promoted paedophilia. It also noted that its representative had stated that all members were required to sign the pledge that they were not condoning paedophilia, and had done so. According to those delegations, since the NGO had been in consultative status with the Council of Europe it had been recognized to have developed useful activities in the area of HIV/AIDS and combating related discrimination. One delegation emphasized that no one should believe that views on the rights of homosexuals could not be discussed at the United Nations, and that the subject was not taboo in a world that was rich because it was diversified. He emphasized that homosexuality should not be confused with paedophilia, which was a crime. The rights of homosexuals were discussed in various United Nations organs and referred to in a number of United Nations instruments. One of the principles of the Charter of the Organization is to promote "the universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms". He also rejected the assumption that there was congruence between homosexuality and paedophilia.

31. The representative of Colombia stated that he needed greater evidence and more materials to take a decision, in the absence of which he had abstained.

Statements in explanations of vote after the vote

32. Statements in explanations of vote after the vote were made by the representatives of Algeria and India.

33. The representative of Algeria declared that the abstention of her delegation should not be interpreted as an encouragement to paedophilia. Her delegation strongly condemned paedophilia, the most abject crime against children, which should be combated by all legal means.

34. The delegation of India stated that his delegation always supported the ruling of the Chair.

General statements

35. The representatives of the Sudan, Algeria, India, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, Bolivia, Tunisia, Ethiopia and Turkey made general statements.

36. The applications of the following NGOs were deferred by the Committee pending further information to questions raised during its resumed 2001 session:

Alliance musulmane d'Angola

Amitié sans frontières internationales

Association mauritanienne pour le bien-être et le secours de l'enfant et de la mère

Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples

United World Colleges International

Wales Assembly of Women

37. Due to time constraints, the Committee deferred the applications of the following NGOs:

A Women's Voice (International)

Africa for Christ International

Africa Infrastructures Foundation

African Community Resource Center

American Society of Safety Engineers

Antioch Christian Centre

Association marocaine de planification familiale

Association of American Railroads

Association of Expelled (Displaced-Exiled) Persons

Becket Fund for Religious Liberty

Canada Family Action Coalition

Canadian Race Relations Foundation

Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action

Centre féminin pour la promotion du développement

Citizens' Rights Protection Society

Community of Sant'Egidio

Confederation of European Forest Owners

Drug Watch International

E-Quality

European Association of Automotive Suppliers

Federation of Women Lawyers in Kenya

Hope for Africa

Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems International

Human Rights International Alliance

Indonesian National Council on Social Welfare

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

International Environmental Law Research Centre

International Federation of Inspection Agencies

International Federation of Medical Students Associations

International Planned Parenthood Federation (Europe Region)

International Possibilities Unlimited

International Prostitutes Collective

International Religious Liberty Association

Japan Civil Liberties Union

Jubilee Campaign

Kashmiri American Council

Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women Foundation

Korea International Volunteer Organization

Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights

Le Foyer musulman

Local Government International Bureau

Medico International

Millennium Institute

Motorcycle Riders Foundation

Mountain Women Development Organization

Mouvement international pour le loisir scientifique et technique

National Abortion Federation

National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations

National Coalition to abolish the Death Penalty

National Council of the Saemaul-Undong Movement

Non-Aligned Students and Youth Organization

Nonviolence International

Population Concern

Rainforest Foundation

Relief International

Russian Public Movement "For Civil Rights"

Swedish Organization of Disabled Persons International Aid Association

United Nations Watch

University of Missouri Kansas City Women's Council

Vishva Hindu Parishad — World Hindu Council

World Council for Psychotherapy

World Permanent Organization for the Jamahiriyan Youth

2. Requests for reclassification

38. At its 47th meeting, on 24 January, the Committee considered requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions (see E/C.2/2001/CRP.7) concerning International PEN, the Armenian Relief Society and the International Association of Charities.

International PEN

39. The NGO was reclassified from the Roster to special consultative status (see sect. I, draft decision I, subparagraph (b)).

Armenian Relief Society

40. At its 2000 resumed session and 2001 regular session, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the request for reclassification of the NGO. At its 47th meeting, on 24 January 2002, the Committee considered the NGO's request for reclassification and decided to recommend that it remain on the Roster and not be reclassified to general status (see sect. I, draft decision I, subparagraph (c)).

International Association of Charities

41. The application of the NGO, which had been placed on the Roster by virtue of its consultative status with UNESCO, was deferred pending the outcome of the discussion in the informal working group, of the question of granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations placed on the Roster by virtue of their consultative status with other United Nations bodies of the specialized agencies.

42. At its 47th meeting, on 24 January, the Committee considered the NGO's application and requested additional financial information on it. The Committee decided to defer consideration of the request pending a response to questions posed by the Committee.

B. New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

43. The Committee considered item 3 (b) (E/C.2/2001/R.2/Add. 6-11 and E/C.2/2001/R.3) at its 31st, 32nd, 36th, 41st to 43rd, 47th, 48th and 50th meetings, on 14, 16 and 21 to 25 January 2002.

1. New applications for consultative status

44. The Committee considered a number of new applications (see E/C.2/2001/Add.6-11) at its 31st, 32nd, 36th, 41st to 43rd and 50th meetings, on 14, 16, 21-23 and 25 January. The Committee recommended that the Council grant the following NGOs consultative status (see sect. I, draft decision I, subparagraph (a)):

Action aide aux familles démunies

Advisory Committee for the Protection of the Sea

Africa Legal Aid

American Mothers

Asian Institute of Transport Development

Asian Migrant Centre

Association d'assistance aux grands handicapés à domicile

Association guinéenne pour la réinsertion des toxicomanes

Association marocaine d'appui à la promotion de la petite entreprise

Association marocaine de solidarité et de développement

Association marocaine de soutien et d'aide aux handicapés mentaux

Association marocaine pour la promotion de la femme rurale

Association nigerienne des scouts de l'environnement

Association of Former United Nations Industry and Development Experts

Charitable Public Fund "Poligon — 29 August"

Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations

Coordination des ONG féminines gabonaises

Corporation for the Development of Women La Morada

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Exchange and Cooperation Centre for Latin America

Guild of Service

Human Resource Development Foundation

Indonesian Child Welfare Foundation

International Federation of Training and Development Organizations

Intersos Humanitarian Aid Organization

Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange

National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

National Congress of American Indians

National Rehabilitation and Development Center

Native American Rights Fund

Observatoire national des droits de l'enfant

Oxfam International

Peace Boat

Public Service Association

Soap and Detergent Association

United States Committee for the United Nations Population Fund

Women's Political Watch

Education and Literacy Fund for Africa

45. At its 2001 session, the Committee had decided that the NGO, which had previously been registered under the name "In Honor of Mandela Fund", should submit a new application under the name "Education and Literacy Fund" and refrain from any mention of its previous name. At its 32nd meeting, on 14 January, several members of the Committee expressed the view that the activities of the NGO as well as its contribution to the Council remained unclear. They believed that it was in the process of establishing itself and its activities. The Committee decided to close the file without prejudice (see sect. I, draft decision I, subparagraph (e)), and invited the NGO to reapply in the future, when it would be able to report concrete activities and programmes. The Committee also decided that when the NGO submits its application in the future it should be considered as expeditiously as possible by the Committee.

46. The Committee decided to defer the applications of the following NGOs pending the receipt of further information in response to questions raised by the Committee at its 2001 resumed session:

African Center Foundation

International Multimodal Transport Association

Islamic-American Zakat Foundation

Minaret of Freedom Institute

47. Owing to time constraints, the Committee did not review the applications of the following NGOs:

American Conservative Union

Association internationale de lutte contre la pauvreté et pour le développement

Centre UNESCO de Catalunya

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Organizations in the Amazon Basin

Ethiopian World Federation

International Centre for Peace and Studies[1]

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

Netherlands Center for Indigenous People

Physicians for Social Responsibility

Pro Dignitate — Human Rights Foundation

Rethinking Tourism Project — Tides Center

Society of Automotive Engineers

Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem

UNESCO Centre Basque Country (UNESCO Etxea)

2. New requests for reclassifications

48. At its 47th and 48th meetings, on 24 January 2002, the Committee decided to reclassify three NGOs from special to general consultative status and three NGOs from the Roster to special consultative status (see sect. I, draft decision I, subparagraph (b)).

49. Owing to time constraints, the Committee did not review the requests for reclassification of the following NGOs, which were deferred to its 2002 regular session:

International Council on Mining and Metals

International Sociological Association

Movement for a Better World

Refugees International

Third World Institute

World Safety Organization

III. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304

A. Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations

Report of the informal working group established to review some aspects of the work of the Committee

50. The Committee considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 38th meeting, on 17 January 2002. It had before it for adoption a draft revised application form for NGOs requesting consultative status with the Council, as well as proposal for a new mechanism to improve the accreditation process of representatives of NGOs to United Nations meetings. At its 2000 session, the Committee had decided to establish an informal working group to review its methods of work, including accreditation issues, procedures, coordination with the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights, enhancement of the NGOs information process and security issues. The members of the group are: Algeria, Bolivia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, India, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Sudan, Tunisia and United States of America.

1. Revision of the application form for consultative status

51. At its 38th meeting, on 17 January, the Facilitator of the group, Philipp Ackermann (Germany), introduced a draft revised application form for consultative status. He recalled that the old application form or questionnaire no longer entirely fulfilled the demands of Committee members, and also sometimes caused confusion on the part of the applying NGOs. In presenting the revised form, Dr. Ackermann underlined the valuable contribution of Mr. Battacharjee (India) and underlined the flexibility of the other members of the group, who had worked constructively throughout its various meetings. The questions of registration, addresses of NGOs, their national or international characters and their statements were addressed at the meetings of the group. The revised form is divided in four parts: part one deals with the substantive information of the applying NGO (aims, purposes, projects, intentions and contribution to the Council); part two covers technical matters, such as the registration and decision-making processes, as well as the composition of membership; part three contains a new table on the financial status of the applicant; and, part four requests a declaration on the part of the NGO that it would act in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31.

52. Dr. Ackermann informed the Committee that the revised form will eventually be made available in the six languages of the United Nations. However, for the time being and until further notice, the Secretariat will continue to accept applications in English and French only.

53. The Chairman of the Committee thanked the Facilitator and the members of the group for their efforts and their important work, and above all for their flexibility to have agreed on a revised form in less than four months. After having taken into account a number of minor amendments proposed by some members of the Committee, the Committee adopted the revised application form.

2. Accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations to the Commission on Human Rights

54. At the same meeting, the Facilitator of the informal working group on the issue of accreditation of representatives of NGOs, Didier Le Bret (France), reported to the Committee on the work of the group on the outcome of its discussion on that issue.

55. Acting upon a request by the Committee at its 2001 regular session and pursuant to a declaration made by the Ambassador of Sri Lanka, who had deplored that, at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights, members of an NGO whose application for consultative status had not been recommended by the Committee had obtained accreditation from another NGO, distributing abusive materials against Sri Lanka, the group met to discuss whether a legal opinion on the issue should be sought and to identify appropriate mechanisms to prevent the participation of such representatives at the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights.

56. Having thanked the members of the group for working diligently and in a very constructive spirit on the issue, Mr. Le Bret referred to various mechanisms identified by the group, including the dissemination of a message, from the Chair of the Commission on Human Rights to NGOs, calling for the observance of established procedures on the relationship between NGOs in consultative status and the United Nations, to be brought to the attention of the NGOs concerned; a compilation, by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, of existing rules and provisions on accreditation issues contained in United Nations documents; the strengthening of security provisions through the host country and concerned security agencies before delivering passes to NGO representatives; the continuation of the awareness activities organized by the NGO Section vis-à-vis the NGO community; the preparation of a letter, for the signature of the Chairman of the Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, reminding NGOs in consultative status with the Council of their rights and responsibilities as stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31; and the preparation of three letters, for the signature of the Chairman of the Committee, addressed to Interfaith International, the Society of Threatened Peoples and Transnational Radical Party, to remind them of their rights and responsibilities as stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31. Mr. Le Bret noted that the mechanisms identified by the group were complementary to the mechanisms already identified in the meeting, held in 2001, between the Chair of the Commission on Human Rights, Leandro Despouy, and the Chair of the Committee, Levent Bilman.

57. At its 50th meeting, on 25 January 2002, the Committee decided to approve the report of the group on the accreditation of NGOs.

3. Cooperation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations with the Commission on Human Rights

58. At its 43rd meeting, on 22 January 2002, the Committee heard a presentation and entered into a dialogue with the Chief of the Support Services Branch, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on the participation of NGOs in meetings of the Commission on Human Rights.

59. The interaction between the Commission and the Committee had greatly increased over the last years. The Chief recalled that the Bureau of the Commission had transmitted to the Chairman of the Committee several complaints by member States on the activities of NGOs at Commission sessions. In some cases, member States had lodged formal complaints to the Committee, special reports had been requested to the NGOs involved and measures had been taken. However, it was agreed that all efforts should be made to prevent violations by NGOs of the rules governing their participation at United Nations meetings in general, in keeping with resolution 1996/31, in particular at meetings of the Commission on Human Rights.

60. It was recalled that in view of the high number of NGOs participating in Commission sessions, which made meeting rooms sometimes too small to accommodate all representatives, a limit of six oral statements in plenary meetings had been decided. In addition, NGOs could only make available the text of their oral statement in the meeting room of the Commission. NGOs could also organize parallel meetings in other rooms, where they could distribute additional material. However, they had to inform the Secretariat in advance of the title of the meeting and of the guests they intended to invite. Those guests were issued a short-term pass for the time of the parallel

meeting. In order to facilitate access to information on NGO representatives and guests entering the United Nations premises, the secretariat of the Commission made available an updated list of all persons accredited at the Commission. Member States could consult that list on a daily basis.

61. In addition, the rules for the accreditation of NGO representatives at the Commission were strictly implemented. Letters of accreditation had to bear the letterhead of an NGO with consultative status and be signed by the authorized NGO representatives, whose names were entered in a database. Before delivering the pass, United Nations officers checked that those requirements were met. In case of problems regarding visas, the issue was referred to the authorities of the host country. Member States could always ask on which basis a representative had been accredited, and the secretariat should demonstrate that the appropriate procedure had been followed. However, the secretariat was not in a position to verify whether the signature of authorized representatives had been forged.

62. Several delegations stressed the need for NGOs to be fully aware of their responsibility for all representatives they accredit to Commission sessions. Accountability for all those who speak and act on their behalf was deemed an important principle that should be clearly explained to the NGO community. Various initiatives had been taken to get that message through and to brief NGOs on the rules they had to observe. The Bureau of the Commission held regular meetings with NGOs during the session. At the secretariat level, two NGO liaison officers would be appointed at the Office of the High Commissioner. In addition, a conference room paper on rules and practices followed by the Commission in the organization of its work, including the modalities of NGO contribution, had been prepared and included in the pre-sessional documentation.

63. Cooperation between the secretariats of the Commission on Human Rights and the Committee on NGOs was crucial for providing well-targeted information to the NGO community. The systematic exchange of information, particularly on complaints and decisions not to recommend granting consultative status, had become an established practice that needed to be maintained. Guidelines on the rights and obligations of NGOs, prepared by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section in collaboration with the Office of the High Commissioner, were deemed a valuable tool, which should be widely disseminated through the respective channels of communication of both Secretariat's entities, including web sites.

64. At the intergovernmental level, a meeting of the Chairmen of the two bodies was held in New York in November 2001. All complaints originating from the Commission on Human Rights were reviewed at the meeting, and the possibility of organizing a videoconference between the two bureaux was discussed. That increased interaction was also encouraged by the informal working group of the Committee, which had prepared a draft letter for the signature of the Chairman of the Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights on accreditation of NGOs to Commission sessions. Those various initiatives were important steps towards agreeable solutions to those problems. It was considered that the dialogue between the Committee and the Chief of the Support Services Branch of the Office of the High Commissioner had also greatly contributed to that goal.

B. Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31

65. Due to time constraints, the Committee did not consider sub-item 4 (b) of its agenda.

66. It has been decided by the Bureau, however, to include in the report the following information. At its 1999 session, the Committee considered for the first time the issue of NGOs whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with Council resolution 1996/31, namely, commercial/industrial, professional, religious, research/educational, or government-funded organizations. Several members of the Committee suggested that a precedent had already been set by granting status to those types of organizations in the past. One member of the Committee suggested that the granting of consultative status to industry or commercial-based NGOs might cause a further imbalance between the number of NGOs granted consultative status from the North to those granted consultative status from the South, as industry/commercial NGOs are not only well-financed but based primarily in the North. A debate ensued on the definition of NGOs within the parameters of Council resolution 1996/31, with some members of the Committee suggesting that any organization without government ties could be considered an NGO. Others objected to that

broad definition. It was agreed that the topic should be reconsidered in future consultations. The Committee resumed consideration on this issue at its 2000 resumed session.

67. At its 2001 regular session, the Chairman of the Committee had suggested that the Committee take action on the applications that have been placed in that category for a considerable time. He referred to articles 1, 3 and 8 of Council resolution 1996/31, which stipulated that the NGO should be concerned with matters falling within the competence of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, that it should undertake to support the work of the United Nations and to promote knowledge of its principles and activities, in accordance with its own aims and purposes and the nature and scope of its competence and activities, and that it should be admitted provided that it could demonstrate that its programme of work is of direct relevance to the aims and purposes of the United Nations. He expressed the view that those criteria should constitute a solid base for the reflection in the Committee's debate on those issues.

68. At the same session, the Committee had agreed to add the issue of NGOs whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 on the agenda of its informal working group. However, the group had not yet reviewed the issue.

69. Owing to time constraints, the Committee did not review under this item the applications of the following NGOs:

German Advisory Council on Global Change
Confederation of German Forests Owners Associations
Syrian Orthodox Church in America
Southern States Police Benevolent Association
Working Party "Brussels 1952"

C. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the United Nations Secretariat

70. The Committee considered item 4 (c) at its 50th meeting, on 25 January.

71. Reporting to the Committee on the work of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, the Chief of the Section stated that in one year the Section had provided accreditation for more than 25 conferences and special events, processing thousands of NGOs, and that the 2,100 NGOs in consultative status with the Council meant that some 14,700 representatives had to be accredited every year. She added that that level of servicing and support was unprecedented in the United Nations record, while she remained very grateful for the support of the members of the Committee for the regularization and establishment for the 2002-2003 biennium of one P-4 and one General Service post. She expressed disappointment, however, with the decision of the Fifth Committee not to approve the upward reclassification of the post requested by the Secretary-General in the proposed budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (see A/C.5/56/L.29). While it was understood that that decision was taken Secretariat-wide, it did have a particular impact on the work of the NGO Section, not only at the structural and hierarchical level but also at the substantive level since the established staffing table of the NGO Section for 2002 includes six Professional posts (one D-1, three P-4, one P-3 and one P-2) and five General Service posts. The Chief also stated that over the past two years, several policy and research papers on substantive issues requested by the Committee as a basis for discussion of its methods of work would benefit from the assistance of a senior NGO officer at the P-5 level. That senior NGO officer would be able to take on all those additional responsibilities needed for the good functioning of the Section, including the review and harmonization of accreditation with the organs, funds and programmes and specialized agencies. It was hoped that that request could be presented again in the next revised budget.

72. She then introduced the NGO outreach programme and stated that following Council resolution 1996/31, confirming the need for a just, balanced, effective and genuine involvement of NGOs from all regions and areas of the world, the United Nations Informal Regional Network of NGOs was formally launched in April 2001 in Aracaju, Brazil. The report of the Secretary-General (A/54/520) had noted that the NGO Section would work to improve the exchange of information through informal networks of country or regionally based NGOs in consultative status with the Council, and to serve as links between the NGO Section and the NGOs in each region. The Network is intended to strengthen the capacity of NGOs to contribute to economic and social development by broadening their access to information and communications, and building their capacities to participate in operational activities as well as policy formulation. The priority accorded by the international community to addressing its special development needs

made Africa the logical first choice for the inauguration of Network activities. The first regional meeting was held in Hammmet, Tunisia, from 8 to 11 January 2002, on the theme "Capacity-building for the Informal NGO Regional Network in Africa". Fifteen African NGOs from the five African subregions and a number of Tunisian NGOs met with United Nations officials and other partners to develop the Network. She added that the Network, which needed strengthening, did require additional time and effort, while the Section had benefited from the assistance of an interregional adviser from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to organize the meeting in Tunisia. It was hoped that that assistance could be extended to strengthen the Network in order for it to become operational, to support the subregional and regional NGO coordinators and to launch the Network in other regions.

73. Following the statement of the Chief of the Section, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Lebanon, Romania, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Tunisia, Turkey, Senegal, Sudan and the United States of America.

74. They reaffirmed their full support for the NGO Section. They strongly welcomed the establishment of the Network. They underlined that it was an important initiative that would broaden immensely NGO access to information and communications as well as enhance the building of their capacities to participate in operational activities as well as policy information. In addition, a number of delegations also underlined that it was regrettable that the Fifth Committee had not followed up on the recommendation made by the NGO Committee three years ago to reclassify a P-4 post to the P-5 level in order to strengthen the Section in its new responsibilities. One delegation declared that, given the responsibilities and tasks carried out by the NGO Section, it needed a senior officer that the Section had not yet obtained. It was obvious that the Section needed additional strengthening, which should be the object of a resolution that the Committee should bring up at its next session.

IV. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Council

75. The Committee considered agenda item 6 at its 36th to 38th, 48th and 50th meetings, on 16, 17, 24 and 25 January 2002. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a compilation of quadrennial reports, submitted by NGOs in general and special consultative status with the Council, on their activities during the period 1996-1999, which had been deferred from the 2001 regular session of the Committee (E/C.2/2001/CRP.6).

76. The Committee took note of 17 quadrennial reports and deferred consideration of another 39, pending responses from the organizations to questions posed by the Committee.

77. The Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following 17 NGOs:

American Association of Jurists
Association for the Prevention of Torture
Association of Third World Studies
Association de Volontaires pour le Service Internationale
Baptist World Alliance
Federation of European Motorcyclist's Associations
Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs
International Association of Penal Law
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage
International Driving Tests Committee
International Federation of Action of Christians for the Abolition of Torture
International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences
International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies
Mahila Dakshata Samiti
United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation
World Confederation of Labour
World's Women's Christian Temperance Union

Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs

International Driving Tests Committee

International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

78. In taking note of the quadrennial reports of these three NGOs, the Committee encouraged them to carry their expertise directly to the United Nations forum through more active participation in United Nations meetings and activities so that the Organization might benefit from their specialized input. Two other NGOs were notified that although the Committee had decided to consider their reports, future quadrennial reports should provide more precise and detailed descriptions of their activities. Moreover, the Committee requested the Secretariat to revise the guidelines on quadrennial reports sent to NGOs, underlining that they should reflect in their reports any amendments to their constitutions. The Secretariat was also asked to draw the attention to the possibility of requesting reclassification to the Roster for NGOs that found it difficult to comply with the quadrennial reporting requirements of the general and special categories. Such reclassification, it was suggested, might be particularly suitable for NGOs that suffer from disruptions in their record-keeping, such as frequent changes of headquarters.

79. Owing to time constraints, consideration of the quadrennial reports of the following 39 NGOs were deferred:

African Society of International and Comparative Law
Arab Organization for Human Rights
Association of Arab-American University Graduates
Christian Democratic International
Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund
Equality Now
France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand
Friends World Committee for Consultation
International Association for Religious Freedom
International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists
International Commission of Jurists
International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction
International Electrotechnical Commission
International Federation of Building and Wood Workers
International Federation of Human Rights Leagues
International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee
International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims
Lutheran World Federation
Medecins sans frontières (International)
Muslim World League
National Bar Association
National Wildlife Federation
Pax Christi International
Physicians for Human Rights
Qatar Charitable Society
Resources for the Future
Robert F. Kennedy Memorial
Simon Wiesenthal Center
Society For Threatened Peoples
Transnational Radical Party
Union Internationale Des Avocats
Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities
Women, Law and Development International
Women's International Zionist Organization
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations
World Evangelical Fellowship
World Safety Organization
World Society of Victimology

France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand

80. At its 37th meeting, on 17 January, the Committee examined the response submitted by the NGO to questions posed by the Committee at its 2001 regular session. The representative of China considered that the allegations contained in the response regarding China's relationship with Tibet were unfounded. Tibet was indisputably part of China. The delegation requested that the NGO submit a special report on the subject of China's sovereignty over Tibet to correct its statement put forward in its response. On the same matter, the representative of France underlined that the NGO was a prestigious one, with a long-standing reputation. However, he noted that the representative of China had raised legitimate questions on an issue of particular interest to China and the NGO should have

the opportunity to respond. The Committee decided to defer consideration of the quadrennial report pending the receipt of a special report from the NGO. It also requested the Secretariat to look into whether or not there were precedents for a special report being requested following the consideration of the quadrennial report of an NGO.

V. Consideration of special reports

81. The Committee considered agenda item 7 at its 39th, 40th and 48th meetings, on 18 and 24 January 2002. It had before it documents E/C.2/2001/3 and Add.1 and 2.

A. Consideration of special reports

Freedom House

82. At its 2001 regular session, the Committee had before it a special report by the NGO on the role and activities undertaken by it in Cuba and clarifications to questions posed by Committee members at its 2000 resumed session (E/C.2/2001/3). Upon request by a delegation, the Committee had decided to request the NGO to submit a detailed special report at its 2001 resumed session about its activities carried out in relation to Cuba, particularly its activities inside the country, including those of persons who have been sent by it to Cuba; the report was also to include the criteria followed by the NGO to designate and accredit its representatives to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Council.

83. At its 39th and 40th sessions, on 18 January 2002, the Committee had before it the additional special report submitted by the NGO (E/C.2/2001/3/Add.1), as well as written answers by the NGO to questions posed by Committee members. The representative of Cuba made the following statement:

> "It will be recalled that the case of Freedom House has been under consideration for several sessions in the Committee, following complaints by several members about the blatant and repeated violations of Council resolution 1996/31 by this so-called non-governmental organization.
>
> "During the regular session in 2000, the delegation of Cuba complained to this Committee about the accreditation as a member of the Freedom House delegation at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights of a representative of the so-called Universidad Latinoamericana de la Libertad Friedrich Hayek, whose request for consultative status had been rejected by this Committee barely two months earlier when proof was established of its ties to terrorist organizations.
>
> "At the following session of the Committee in 2001, Cuba again complained to it, denouncing the serious violations committed by the organization during the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights. On that occasion, Freedom House accredited as its representatives to the Commission individuals of Cuban origin belonging to terrorist organizations based in Miami, together with three citizens of countries of Eastern Europe, who travelled to Cuba to foment disorder and to organize groups that engaged in activities against the Government.
>
> "In addition, the organization circulated documents without attribution and material of a political nature and content that was libellous and disrespectful to Heads of State and Government of Member States, including documents produced by terrorist organizations of Cuban origin that do not have consultative status with the Council.
>
> "It should be recalled that this Committee's concerns, doubts and objections about this organization did not begin at its recent sessions. Questioning of the character and activities of Freedom House was clearly indicated from the very moment when it considered the request by Freedom House for consultative status in 1995, when the Committee took the reasoned and objective decision not to approve the request.
>
> "Unfortunately, that decision was later rescinded by a vote of the Council following intense pressure that was publicly and blatantly exerted by the United States Government.
>
> "This situation, however, came as no surprise, since we all know that Freedom House operates as yet another agency of that Government, pursues its political objectives and interests, and depends on it for financing.

"As part of the most recent 'Cuba Programme' established by the United States Government under section 109 of the Helms-Burton Act, between 1996 and 2000 the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) spent $10 million on its 22 projects designed to destabilize our country through the creation, organization and financing of internal subversive groups. In 2001 it committed an additional $5 million.

"Among the various activities which USAID finances as part of this 'Cuba Programme' is the money it allocates to Freedom House, which was $500,000 in 1997, and by 2001 amounted to $825,000.

"This so-called non-governmental organization also has close and demonstrated ties to the United States special services, in particular, the Central Intelligence Agency, under whose direction it carries out missions to destabilize legitimately constituted governments, spread libellous propaganda against sovereign States and engage in subversion and clandestine activities in several countries.

"We will not attempt to repeat here all the details of the politically motivated activities of Freedom House against Cuba and other States Members of the United Nations. My delegation has already advanced sufficient arguments to this Committee to prove the aggressive and politically motivated action contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter that this organization has historically carried out against my country, with the aim of subverting the internal order and overthrowing the Government that has been legitimately and constitutionally established by the people of Cuba.

"Freedom House seeks to project an image of a non-governmental organization that promotes democratic values, thereby attempting without success to conceal what it truly is, namely, a powerful machine for subversion that is more akin to an intelligence service than to a non-governmental organization.

"Cuba values, respects and strongly supports the serious and constructive work of non-governmental organizations. We cannot continue to allow the important and commendable work of non-governmental organizations, their invaluable contribution and constructive participation in and influence on the framework of the United Nations system to be tarnished by the repugnant actions of a tiny minority of organizations, like Freedom House, that are an embarrassment to the community of non-governmental organizations which genuinely respects established norms.

"To be granted consultative status with the Council constitutes without doubt a recognition of the work of non-governmental organizations. At the same time, however, it involves a commitment and organizations have an obligation to honour this commitment by strictly observing the norms and regulations governing this consultative relationship.

"Freedom House has not only ignored this commitment, but has acted with total disregard for the established norms. For that reason, questions have been raised about it repeatedly in this Committee.

"My delegation has carefully studied the document containing the organization's replies to the questions put to it by several delegations at the previous session. In all candour, I must express our dissatisfaction with the replies received, which in many cases are completely evasive, while in other cases the organization simply does not reply to what was asked. In addition, the organization's statements in this document, far from dispelling our concerns, give rise to new doubts which require us to raise new questions. My delegation will submit our questions in writing to the Secretariat so that it can send them to the organization for a reply in writing.

"Moreover, bearing in mind the seriousness of the case and the fact that the special report requested from the organization was circulated only a few days ago, my delegation is asking for more time to study this document. Having completed a preliminary reading, we can state that the document submitted by the organization does not comply with the Committee's request. The organization was to have submitted a special, detailed report on its activities concerning Cuba. The report before us is scanty, evasive and

disrespectful, but I repeat, we need additional time to consider it thoroughly.

"In conclusion, I request that the text of my statement be reproduced in full in the report of the Committee."

84. The representative of China stated that the position of the NGO with regard to Taiwan Province of China was unacceptable, because it recognized Taiwan Province of China as an autonomous entity and denied the principle of "one China in the world" enshrined in relevant General Assembly resolutions. By so doing, Freedom House, in spite of its consultative status with the Council, had violated United Nations rules as well as the spirit of United Nations resolutions.

85. The representative of the Sudan stated that, following the NGO's stated willingness two years ago to engage in a dialogue with her delegation, the NGO had finally decided to meet representatives of the Sudan in New York. However, the representative expressed her disagreement with the approach of the NGO to human rights. She stated that it tended to make value judgements and thus lacked objectivity in dealing with issues of human rights. She added that her country would not have questioned such activities of the NGO had it been objective, constructive, sensible and realistic in its approach to her country. The NGO had never contacted the respective embassies, nor had it visited the country to verify its information. She said that it ignored the real situation in her country and portrayed its people as if they knew and practised nothing except violations and abuses. She further indicated that her delegation was aware of the political realities that dictated an extremist approach by the NGO, the result of which was the distorted analysis developed by it on Sudan issues. It had referred to genocide in the Sudan that only existed in its imagination. The representative also deplored that, on its web site, a reference was made that connected the Sudan with the 11 September terrorist attacks. She indicated that her delegation would continue to raise questions on the activities of the NGO, whenever necessary.

86. The representative of the United States stressed that the activities of Freedom House were fully consistent with the spirit and the work of the United Nations. Disagreements with the positions of the organization should not prevent it from speaking out about human rights in relevant United Nations forums. He reiterated the fact that Freedom House was totally independent of United States Government direction and also stated that he was satisfied with the special report of Freedom House.

87. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, seconded by several delegations, expressed its disagreement with a recent study by Freedom House, a summary of which was available on its web site, which asserted an expanding gap in the levels of freedom and democracy between Islamic countries and the rest of the world. Its Chairman was quoted on the web site, calling the attention of policy makers to this matter in the wake of the terrorist attacks against the United States on 11 September.

88. A number of delegations expressed their satisfaction with the special report submitted by the NGO, which they deemed comprehensive.

89. The Committee engaged in a dialogue with a representative of the NGO on these various issues. The representative stated that the NGO was a broadly based and non-partisan organization. In relation to Cuba, it only sought to engage in people-to-people contacts on human rights and democracy issues, and had no association with terrorist organizations. He denied the nature of the links alleged by Cuba between the NGO and some Cuban-American groups, although it could not investigate the full backgrounds of all its associates. Responding to the observations of China, he stressed that the organization had great respect for the sovereignty of States and was neutral on the issue of Taiwan Province of China as a State. The fact that Taiwan Province of China was listed in its reports did not entail any position on the status of Taiwan Province of China as a political entity. With reference to the comments made by the Sudan, the representative stated that the NGO had been represented at a meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of that country and hoped that it would help to improve the situation in the south of the country. Furthermore, the NGO was concerned with the sufferings of all Sudanese people and did not support any one side in the political conflict. In relation to the observations by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the report published by the NGO intended to show the possibility to move forward on democratization and respect for human rights in Muslim countries. There was no intention from the NGO to enter into an inter-civilization clash.

90. The delegations of China, Cuba and the Sudan announced that they would pose additional questions, in writing, to Freedom House on different aspects of its work and on its recent positions. At its 48th meeting, on 24 January, the Committee decided to defer consideration of the matter, pending response by the NGO to questions posed by Committee members.

International Association of Democratic Lawyers

International Federation of Human Rights Leagues

Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples

New Human Rights

Women's Human Rights International Association

91. At its 39th and 40th meetings, on 18 January 2002, the Committee reviewed the special reports submitted by the five above-mentioned human rights NGOs following a complaint by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the previous Committee session. The complaint related to the accreditation by the NGOs of members of the Modjahedin Khalgh Organization/National Council of Resistance (MKO/NCR), a movement deemed a terrorist one by the Islamic Republic of Iran, to take part in the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights.

92. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that the complaint against the International Association of Democratic Lawyers had been dropped in view of the apology made by the NGO; he thanked the NGO for its understanding (see Sect. I, draft decision I, subparagraph (f)). As for the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues and the Women's Human Rights International Association, he asked for more time to consult his capital and obtain instructions. The representative stated his disagreement with the special reports presented by the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples and New Human Rights, in which they justified the accreditation of their representatives to the Commission on Human Rights. He fully recognized the right of NGOs to express criticisms on the situation regarding human rights in various countries. However, that did not entail NGOs to accredit members of terrorist groups. The representative further requested new special reports from those two NGOs. He circulated additional information on the participation of MKO/NCR members at the fifth-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights and at the Third Committee of the General Assembly, upon which those new special reports should be based. He further said that those NGOs should clearly state that they would not accredit members of terrorist organizations at United Nations meetings in future.

93. The representative of France stressed the need to find agreeable solutions to the issue of accreditation of NGO representatives to the Commission on Human Rights, including of individuals who wished to speak as witnesses on human rights issues, while seriously considering alleged cases of terrorism. Several delegations expressed their support for a balanced position, which should be further elaborated by Committee members.

94. At its 48th meeting, on 24 January, the Committee took note of the fact that the consideration of special reports by the Women's Human Rights International Association and the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues was pending. The Committee also decided to request New Human Rights and the Movement against Racism and for Friendship among Peoples to submit additional special reports to it at its next session.

B. Complaints submitted by States

France Libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand

95. At its 38th meeting, on 17 January, the Committee had before it a quadrennial report by the NGO, as well as answers provided by the NGO to questions raised by Committee members. The representative of China said that those documents were shocking because they denied the fact that Tibet was a part of China. He further stated that those positions infringed on the sovereignty of his country and violated the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 on the consultative relationship between NGOs and the United Nations. The representative of France stressed the good reputation and numerous positive activities carried out by the NGO. Upon request by the delegate of China, the Committee requested the NGO to submit a special

report on its position regarding China's sovereignty over Tibet.

VI. Implementation of Council resolution 1995/32

96. The Committee considered agenda item 8 at its 49th meeting, on 25 January. In accordance with Council resolution 1995/32, applications from the following organizations of indigenous people not in consultative status with the Council, interested in participating in the open-ended intersessional Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights, were before the Committee:

United Native Nations
Indigenous Peoples and Nations Coalition
Chickaloon Village Traditional Council

97. The issue had been referred to the attention of the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva regarding the new procedure established and a response remained pending. On the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a background note on the matter.

VII. Organization of the work of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

98. The Committee held its resumed 2001 session from 14 to 25 January 2002. The Committee held 20 meetings (31st to 50th).

B. Attendance

99. Representatives of all the States members of the Committee attended the session: Algeria, Bolivia, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Lebanon, Pakistan, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United States of America.

100. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, Georgia, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Netherlands, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

101. The following specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

C. Election of officers

102. At its 31st meeting, on 14 January, the Committee elected Orlando Requeijo Gual (Cuba) as Vice-Chairman to replace Mercedes de Armas Garcia (Cuba) for the unexpired term, that is, to the end of the 2001 session of the Committee.

D. Agenda

103. At the 31st meeting, on 14 January, the Committee added a new item, "Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32", to the agenda for its 2001 session. The revised agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the previous session of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification.
4. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:

(a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;

(b) Consideration of organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31;

(c) Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat;

(d) Other related matters.

5. Implementation of Economic and Social Council decision 1996/302.

6. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

7. Consideration of special reports.

8. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32.

9. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2002 session of the Committee.

10. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

104. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the organization of work for the session in an informal paper.

Notes

[1] The representative of India regretted that the Committee was not able to review the NGO's application.

E. Documentation

105. The list of documents before the Committee is contained in the annex.

VIII. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its 2001 resumed session

106. At its 50th meeting, on 25 January 2002, the Committee adopted the draft report as contained in document E/C.2/2001/L.3 and in an informal paper, and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report, in consultation with the members of the Committee and its secretariat.

Annex

List of documents before the Committee at its resumed 2001 session

Symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/C.2/2001/1	2	Annotated provisional agenda
E/C.2/2001/3 and Add.1 and Add.2	7	Note by the Secretary-General containing special reports
E/C.2/2001/R.2 and Add.6-11	3 (b)	Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status
E/C.2/2001/R.3	3 (b)	Memorandum by the Secretary-General containing requests for reclassification
E/C.2/2001/CRP.5	3 (a)	Applications received from non-governmental organizations for consultative status with the Council deferred from previous sessions of the Committee held in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001
E/C.2/2001/CRP.6	6	Compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Council deferred from previous sessions of the Committee held in 1999, 2000 and 2001
E/C.2/2001/CRP.7	3 (a)	Requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions
E/C.2/2001/CRP.8	2	Compilation of non-governmental organizations whose defining characteristics are not in strict conformity with the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31
E/C.2/2001/L.3	9	Draft report

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Item 3 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

Annual reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund to the Economic and Social Council

1. In its decision 2002/4 of 5 February 2002, the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) took note of the reports to the Economic and Social Council (DP/2002/7 and DP/FPA/2002/1). The Executive Board also decided to transmit the reports, together with the comments made on them, to the Council for consideration at its substantive session of 2002.

2. Part one of the present document contains the report of the Administrator of UNDP; part two contains the report of the Executive Director of UNFPA.

3. The comments of the Executive Board on the reports are contained in part three, which is an extract from the report on the first regular session of 2002 of the Executive Board (DP/2002/10).

* E/2002/100.

02-28453 (E) 270302

Part one
Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme

Issues

The present report was prepared in conformity with a joint format agreed to by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund.

It addresses the implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General, including progress made in the context of the United Nations Development Group, and the provisions of the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2001. It also includes a discussion of relations with the World Bank, follow-up to international conferences and the Millennium Declaration, and humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance.

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I. Implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2001

A. Structures and mechanisms

1. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has been restructured to mirror the new Board for Coordination of Chief Executives of the United Nations system (formerly the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC)) with its High-level Committee on Programmes and the High-level Committee on Management. This should strengthen relations between UNDG and the organizations of the United Nations system that are not members of UNDG.

2. The United Nations Development Group Office (DGO) has continued to provide Internet services both at headquarters and at the country level through the provision of best practices and examples of successful common country assessment (CCA) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) exercises. Two Internet vehicles have been set up in this respect: UNDG DevLink and the CCA/UNDAF Learning Network (RCNet). Since its inception in October 2000, DevLink has had more than 70,000 hits. A fifth topic, on HIV/AIDS, has recently been added to DevLink.

3. In the past year, UNDG has cooperated with other executive committees in the preparation of two important policy documents: with the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS) on peace-building, and with the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA) on relations between the United Nations and European institutions in the development and humanitarian fields. A joint UNDG/ECHA working group on Afghanistan has been established to guide the United Nations operational response in Afghanistan under the integrated mission task force (IMTF).

4. Five United Nations Houses were designated in 2001 (Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago). Funding has been procured for a pilot programme to facilitate the implementation of common services at the country level.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

5. There is further need for the harmonization of financial, administrative and personnel systems, including common personnel policies. The UNDG Management Group has set up two ad hoc working groups: harmonization of personnel policies; and financial policies.

6. There is a need to speed up the identification of training priorities for 2002 and to develop a monitoring and evaluation system to measure the impact of this training. The UNDG Working Group on Training is currently preparing guidelines for this issue.

Recommendations

7. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the UNDG structures now in place and welcome the efforts of UNDG to rationalize its subsidiary machinery;

(b) Reaffirm the need for continued, close cooperation between UNDG members and the subsidiary machinery of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

(c) Encourage further use of UNDG machinery for the implementation of the resolution on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2001;

(d) Welcome the efforts towards the establishment of United Nations Houses and the development of common services.

B. Funding and resources

8. In accordance with Executive Board decision 99/23 and others, UNDP made further progress in 2000 in implementing the multi-year funding framework. At the third regular session 2000 of the Executive Board, the Administrator presented his report on the updated allocation framework and the multi-year funding framework (DP/2000/31).

9. Based on the levels of voluntary contributions to regular resources in 1999 and 2000, the projections for 2002 and 2003 noted in document DP/1999/30 of $1.0 and $1.1 billion respectively have been adjusted to $800 and $900 million respectively. These will become the revised income projections for the biennium 2002-2003, amounting to a regular resource base of $1.76 billion for the biennium. This reflects a two-year delay in achieving the voluntary contribution targets as initially envisaged. Based on recent increases by the majority of donors, the level of voluntary contributions is expected to increase in 2001 after annual declines over eight consecutive years. This turnaround needs to be sustained to place the organization on a more sound financial footing. For the four-year period 2000-2003, voluntary contributions to regular resources are now projected at $3.0 billion.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

10. UNDP has gradually evolved into a multi-funded organization. Over the years, other resource contributions (i.e., non-core) have grown significantly. In 2000, other resources amounted to $1.5 billion, comprising $571 million in third-party co-financing (trust funds and third-party cost-sharing) and $933 million in programme-country cost-sharing. Thus, total income projections underlying the integrated resource framework for the period 2000-2003 amount to $9.4 billion, comprising $5.6 billion in donor resources, of which $3.0 billion is projected for voluntary contributions to regular core resources; $2.6 billion in third-party co-financing and $3.8 billion in programme-country cost-sharing.

11. The erosion in regular resources over the past years has severely impaired the ability of UNDP to produce the development outcomes envisioned in the country cooperation frameworks, and the strategic results framework of the multi-year funding framework. This has had a particularly adverse impact on the struggle of low-income countries against poverty. The consequences of the funding shortfall also threaten the ability of the organization to sustain a strong global platform and a

universal country presence on behalf of the United Nations system and the international community at large.

Recommendations

12. The Council may wish to:

(a) Welcome the progress achieved in reviewing, updating and improving the multi-year funding framework;

(b) Welcome the increased levels of funding available to UNDP, with core funding levels representing an increase for the first time in many years;

(c) Make recommendations on the continuing need to strengthen core funding as the bedrock of the organization;

(d) Make recommendations on the future of the United Nations pledging conference, taking into account the experience of UNDP and other funds and programmes with the multi-year funding framework.

C. The resident coordinator system

13. In the past year, the strengthening of the capacity of the resident coordinator system remained a top priority for UNDP as steward of the system on behalf of the Secretary-General. A new modality for the resident coordinator competency assessment was pilot tested with five resident coordinator system and the Inter-Agency Steering Committee members. Six assessments were held during the period 28 August-30 September 2000 for 66 candidates.

14. Selection procedures have resulted in a wider pool of resident coordinators, with emphasis on increasing the candidates from organizations other than UNDP. A more determined effort was also made in order to increase the number of female candidates in the resident coordinator pool, to be nominated by the organization concerned.

15. By December 2000, out of 120 resident coordinators, some 20 were from organizations other than UNDP (17 per cent) and 31 were women (26 per cent). By June 2001, out of 115 resident coordinators, some 22 (19 per cent) were from organizations other than UNDP and 30 were women (26 per cent). While representing an increase, these figures need to be constantly updated to take into account new appointments of resident coordinators. These numbers are projected to increase with a policy adopted by UNDG in late 2001 of all organizations proposing 50 per cent of their candidates as women for the resident coordinator assessment.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

16. While there has been much progress in the past year, especially through more rigorous selection and assessment procedures to enhance and diversify the pool of resident coordinators, the low numbers of women resident coordinators is a cause for concern. Decisions taken by UNDG in November 2001 aim at ensuring that 50 per cent of candidates proposed by all organizations, including UNDP, for the resident coordinator assessment are women. In addition, a more determined effort needs to be made to recruit a higher percentage of resident coordinators with

experience in humanitarian affairs to serve in countries in special development situations or in post-conflict country offices.

17. To monitor the training level of resident coordinators, the organizations represented on the UNDG Executive Committee agreed to financial arrangements for a 180-degree feedback exercise while the Inter-Agency Steering Committee on Resident Coordinator Competency Assessment agreed to take on the management of this task.

18. Finally, the length of time involved in the selection of resident coordinators means that reform of the inter-agency selection procedures is deemed necessary to ensure rapid placement. In particular, UNDG has agreed to publish the list of vacancies in advance and to expedite policies of the Inter-Agency Selection Panel in order to reduce to a minimum the time between the departure of one resident coordinator and the arrival of his/her successor in a country office.

Recommendations

19. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the progress in broadening the pool of resident coordinators and of the efforts to promote a cultural and gender-neutral assessment in the selection of resident coordinators;

(b) Encourage all entities participating in the resident coordinator system to put forward for the assessment at least 50 per cent women staff members;

(c) Note the commitment to improving the assessment of resident coordinator and country team performance.

D. Implementation of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework

20. During 2000, the United Nations Development Group continued to support the CCA/UNDAF process. The year 2000 witnessed the completion of 63 CCAs and 19 UNDAFs.

21. Progress has also been undertaken in terms of training. Most notably, some 60 staff members from organizations at country, regional and headquarters levels were trained at the United Nations Staff College in Turin as resource persons for CCA/UNDAF, anti-poverty strategies and team-building. A draft module linking the CCA/UNDAF process and the implementation of the millennium development goals and a module on poverty were developed.

22. In the course of 2001, an external evaluation of UNDAFs was undertaken by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in preparation for the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. Following this review, the UNDG Executive Committee, at its meeting on 6 July 2001, endorsed 22 recommendations submitted by the Programme Group of UNDG as a follow-up to the UNDAF external assessment and the workshop. A joint communication from the Executive Committee of UNDG to all resident coordinators and United Nations country teams requested them to review the recommendations of the assessment and the implications for their work at the country level.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

23. The evaluation of UNDAFs highlights the importance of obtaining inter-agency participation in the UNDAF exercises. Furthermore, UNDAF evaluations revealed that the national ownership of development strategies represents the most fruitful avenue for the preparation of an UNDAF that meets the needs of programme countries.

24. In addition, the need for the UNDAF to take into consideration, where relevant, humanitarian and post-conflict aspects was also brought out. In this respect, more than 10 United Nations country teams in countries in special development situations have finalized or are in the process of finalizing adopted CCAs, and 5 adopted UNDAFs for crisis and post-conflict countries. A review of CCAs and UNDAFs has been undertaken to determine the extent to which a conflict-prevention perspective is incorporated.

Recommendations

25. The Council may wish to:

(a) Welcome the efforts undertaken in increasing the number and the scope of common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks;

(b) Encourage resident coordinators and United Nations country teams to ensure full agency participation and to continue to improve the quality of UNDAFs and their responsiveness to national priorities;

(c) Welcome national ownership and leadership in the preparation of common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

E. Harmonization of programming periods and procedures

26. In its decision 2001/11, the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA encouraged programme countries that have already developed or are planning to develop a common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework jointly undertaken and approved by the Government to use it, on a pilot basis, as the common planning framework for United Nations operational activities at the country level, with effect from the annual session 2002.

27. Draft country outlines will be presented to the Executive Boards for discussion at their annual session where applicable; the CCA/UNDAF will be made available for information. Following review by the Executive Board, the country programme will be finalized, taking into account the comments made by the Board. The country programmes will be posted by October of the last year of the country programmes on the web sites of respective UNDG partners and will be approved in January on a no-objection basis without presentation or discussion unless at least five members have informed the secretariat in writing before the meeting of their wish to bring a particular country programme before the Executive Board.

28. In December 2001, the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA wrote to all country teams informing them of the new common

programming procedures and providing guidance to country teams on the preparation of country programme outlines and country programmes.

29. The past year has witnessed three important actions that complement the CCA and UNDAF as well as the adoption of a common approval process. These are the adoption of common strategies on poverty reduction and girls' education by UNDG and the issuance of guidelines on joint programmes. Draft guidelines on joint mid-term reviews of country programmes are also being piloted.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

30. Given the critical role to be played by the CCA/UNDAF process, it is essential that a strict timetable be adhered to in the preparation of UNDAFs.

31. With the adoption of a common programming procedure for UNDP and UNFPA, it is expected that the UNICEF and WFP Executive Boards will consider such a harmonized programme approval process early in 2002. The harmonization of programme approval processes also necessitates the development of a common structure for country programme documents in order to simplify procedures and reduce transaction costs.

Recommendations

32. The Council may wish to:

(a) Welcome the progress achieved by UNDP and UNFPA in the harmonization of country programme approval processes;

(b) Encourage the members of UNDG to continue efforts to harmonize country programme approval processes and a common structure for programme documents;

(c) Encourage all members of UNDG, in their harmonization and simplification efforts, to seek to reduce transaction costs of country programming.

F. Gender mainstreaming

33. UNDP country offices have reported an increasing use of the CCA and UNDAF mechanisms and the resident coordinator system for the promotion of gender equality and implementation of international commitments. Within the resident coordinator system, the gender thematic groups at the country level are the most common and active inter-agency coordination mechanisms. In most cases, UNDP is acting as leader in inter-agency cooperation through thematic groups.

34. Two thirds of UNDP country offices are supporting work on the advancement of women and gender-equality goals. Participatory approaches to policy formulation and the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of its five-year review as well as building national capacities for gender mainstreaming, especially through the collection and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex are among the more important aspects of this work.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

35. There is slow movement towards concrete action and tangible results from effective mainstreaming of gender as a cross-cutting issue in key development areas. Work on gender-disaggregated data needs to be expanded, especially to focus on indicators to monitor global commitments. The need also persists to develop further the UNDP institutional capacity for gender-mainstreaming into its practice areas and programmes with the necessary tools and methodologies for measuring progress. Mainstreaming gender into the UNDP six thematic practice areas is being strengthened at the corporate policy-formulation level. A similar effort should be reflected at the country level, with concrete action and tangible results built into the strategic results framework and the gender strategic results framework.

36. UNDP is making efforts to ensure that a comprehensive gender perspective is integrated into planning across all programme sectors in crisis and post-conflict situations. This includes the compilation of guidelines for field staff and the development of a gender-specific draft plan of action.

Recommendations

37. The Council may wish to:

(a) Welcome the improvements in gender mainstreaming, particularly through the UNDAF;

(b) Encourage the funds and programmes to ensure that UNDAF implementation supports gender-mainstreaming considerations;

(c) Encourage UNDP to strengthen the gender-sensitive components of the strategic results framework.

Gender balance

38. UNDP remains committed to full gender equality in its human resource policy and to zero tolerance for sexual harassment. It has redoubled its efforts to achieve gender balance, targeted by the organization for 2001. With recent appointments, UNDP has now four women out of a total of eight staff members at the Assistant Secretary-General level. Among UNDP national officers, women now constitute 38 per cent, nearing the 40 per cent target. Thirty-three per cent of deputy resident representatives are women while the goal of 38 per cent women resident representatives/resident coordinators will not be reached this year.

39. In the establishment of gender balance at UNDP, the most notable achievement has been the recruitment of the first group of young professionals in the leadership programme (LEAD). Out of 19 recruited professionals, 10 are women.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

40. Despite the improvements in gender balance at the senior and entry levels, efforts still need to be made to appoint and retain women at the mid-level of the organization's career structure. Recent policies to improve this balance, such as the work/life policy, are expected to lead to an improvement.

Recommendations

41. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the improvements in gender balance at the senior and entry levels of the organization;

(b) Call for further efforts by UNDP to accelerate the achievement of institutional goals for gender balance, especially among resident coordinators;

(c) Continue to promote human resource policies that actively promote the careers of young women.

G. Evaluation

42. The realignment of the UNDP monitoring and evaluation instruments reinforces key dimensions of the strategic shift to focus on development results and outcome-level performance. The key methodological refinements involve improved measurement and assessment of the strategic results framework, capturing interventions such as policy advice, dialogue and advocacy, more rigorous definition and use of indicators, and assessing the partnership strategy that UNDP pursues towards the achievement of targeted results. Compliance with the results-based management and the simplification process will be reflected in the revision of the UNDP *Handbook on Results-Oriented Monitoring and Evaluation*, completed late 2001.

43. During 2000, UNDP completed testing the country-level impact assessment in Burkina Faso and Malawi. The objective of the assessment is to provide empirical evidence on the overall contribution and impact of UNDP interventions over an extended period of time while strengthening and refining the methodological tools and approaches to capture results and impact levels accurately.

44. In 2000, the first UNDP report on development effectiveness marked an initial effort to assess UNDP effectiveness in achieving desired development outcomes. The empirical evidence from the 2001 development effectiveness report confirms more forcefully the previous findings that UNDP performance is increasing in the achievement of project immediate objectives.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

45. The methodological refinements have brought out in particular the pressing challenge of making early progress in ensuring that empirical evidence plays a critical role in improving the quality and impact of UNDP-supported projects and programmes, as part of the UNDP overall knowledge management strategy.

Recommendations

46. The Council may wish to:

(a) Encourage UNDP to enhance substantive accountability further;

(b) Welcome the development of the country-level impact assessment methodology to provide an evaluation of the long-term impact of UNDP programmes.

H. Cooperation with the World Bank

47. Over the past years, a renewed dialogue between UNDP and the World Bank, including regular consultations between the Administrator and the President of the Bank, has contributed to identifying priority areas and developing partnership. Poverty reduction, governance and information technology offer a particularly strong potential for cooperation.

48. In the approach adopted in all areas, cooperation with the World Bank is developed in the context of UNDP partnerships with Governments in programme countries. Its central purpose is to increase the effectiveness of nationally owned development processes supported by UNDP in its work with Governments and other national entities.

49. Specific cooperation has been developing on poverty-reduction strategies, particularly Poverty-Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) governance, with a particular emphasis on Africa, as well as information technology and the Global Development Gateway. Given the importance of poverty-reduction objectives, UNDP has been placing a strong specific emphasis on its dialogue with the World Bank on PRSPs and the contribution it can make, substance and process-wise, to PRSPs in programme countries. Last year, UNDP initiated a mechanism of joint review of cooperation, whereby two or three times a year UNDP and the World Bank would assess their cooperation in about 20 PRSP countries. The latest of such meetings was held in July 2001. A joint review of the poverty trust fund established by each institution was also held in UNDP headquarters to ensure that the two initiatives would be complementary.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

50. Although the relationship between the World Bank and UNDP has greatly improved over the past years, efforts still need to be made in terms of institutionalizing the relationship, in particular regarding participation of UNDP in the PRSP. The UNDG guidance note on PRSPs should allow a much clearer relationship between instruments such as UNDAF and PRSP.

51. In other areas of development cooperation, such as in HIV/AIDS, or post-conflict development assistance, a clearer division of labour between UNDP and the World Bank needs to be established and clarified. The possibility of a significant expansion of the World Bank's grant assistance will require a clear delineation of roles and responsibilities.

Recommendations

52. The Council may wish to:

(a) Welcome the adoption of a UNDG guidance note to United Nations country teams on the Poverty-Reduction Strategy Paper;

(b) Welcome the dialogue between UNDP and the Bretton Woods institutions;

(c) Encourage the growing dialogue in order to establish closer linkages among instruments such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Poverty-Reduction Strategy Paper where applicable;

(d) Invite the Bretton Woods institutions to cooperate more closely in the development of common country assessments and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

II. Follow-up to major conferences and summits and the Millennium Declaration

53. UNDP has been designated by the Secretary-General to coordinate country-level assistance from the United Nations system to monitor progress towards development goals set out in the Millennium Declaration. The Secretary-General has mandated DESA to monitor global progress towards the achievement of the goals.

54. UNDP has led the UNDG effort to clarify and define the framework of the millennium development goals, targets and indicators under the auspices of the Office of the Secretary-General and in cooperation with DESA, United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

55. A UNDG guidance note on reporting on the millennium development goals at the country level was prepared and adopted by UNDG in November 2001. To date, reports are being piloted in 13 countries. The first such pilot, in the United Republic of Tanzania, was presented to the Economic and Social Council at its 2001 substantive session. In addition, UNDP has provided, through UNDG, substantive contributions to the Secretary-General's Road Map on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration.

56. In his capacity as Chairman of UNDG, the Administrator has been tasked with the conduct, with United Nations partners, of a major advocacy and mobilization campaign targeted at national and global opinion. Preparatory planning has already commenced for this campaign.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

57. Despite the relatively recent adoption of the Millennium Declaration, a large proportion of country teams made significant efforts to reorganize the reporting of their activities in accordance with the millennium development goals. Thus, CCA indicators include, but are not limited to, the indicators developed to monitor the millennium development goals.

58. A challenge remains, however, in establishing links between coordination instruments such as CCAs and UNDAFs and the millennium development goals. Thus in the annual reports of the resident coordinators, several country teams stated that the CCA provided them with a tool for assessing progress made towards the implementation at the national level of the goals and targets set out in the global conferences. The challenge is thus to retain the country-led specificity of the CCAs and UNDAFs while meeting international commitments made at the Millennium Summit.

Recommendations

59. The Council may wish to:

(a) Welcome the development of the indicator framework for the implementation of the millennium development goals as a way to strengthen conference follow-up and monitoring of the goals at the country level;

(b) Encourage country teams to monitor follow-up to global conferences and summits, especially through the goals and targets of the Millennium Declaration;

(c) Request the United Nations Development Group to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2002 on the achievement of millennium development goals reports.

III. Follow-up to special economic, humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance

60. After rounds of intensive consultations with the members of the Executive Board and with various operational partners on the roles of UNDP in crisis and post-crisis scenarios, the Board adopted decision 2001/1 of 5 February 2001 on the role of UNDP in crisis and post-conflict situations.

61. In its effort to link relief, rehabilitation and development in post-conflict and natural disaster situations, UNDP is now introducing the transition recovery programme concept, which involves the mobilization of transition recovery teams, with a view to supporting the United Nations country teams in initiating appropriate and timely support for early recovery. Shortly after the devastating earthquake of January 2001, for example, a pilot transition recovery team was dispatched to Gujarat, India.

62. Within the United Nations system, UNDP is responsible for providing capacity-building assistance to mine-affected countries and addressing the socio-economic aspects of landmine contamination. In 2001, UNDP undertook capacity-building activities in 16 countries and raised over $30 million to support them.

63. UNDP continued to play an active role in strengthening regional, national, and local capacities in natural disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery. During 2001, this has included support to over 50 programmes at country and regional levels.

Problems encountered and lessons learned

64. In order to ensure true sustainability, priority attention will be given to support national efforts and ensure maximum collaboration with local authorities, civil society, and the communities concerned in the decision-making and implementation process.

65. Work is ongoing to strengthen partnership in the area of crisis prevention and recovery, ranging from the launching of a joint review of the UNDP/World Bank collaboration in the post-conflict situations, to complementary work for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration in the Great Lakes region.

Recommendations

66. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the development by UNDP of the transition recovery programme and encourage it to ensure coordination with the ongoing efforts of other relevant organizations;

(b) Support efforts to ensure that the Resident Coordinator serves concurrently as Humanitarian Coordinator, where appropriate;

(c) Stress the importance, in recovery programmes of country-led activities while ensuring maximum cooperation of local authorities, civil society and communities concerned in implementation and decision-making.

Part two
Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

The present report has been prepared in conformity with a joint format agreed by the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund covering the list of issues identified in consultations among United Nations Development Group (UNDG) members. The main issues include: implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review; follow-up to the international conferences and millennium development goals; and humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance. The report draws on the Synthesis Report of the Resident Coordinator Annual Reports, which was prepared by the United Nations Development Group Office and circulated in October 2001.

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I. Implementation of the reform programme of the Secretary-General and the provisions of the triennial comprehensive policy review

A. Structures and mechanisms

1. In 2000, the UNDG tightened its support mechanism, creating two working groups — one dealing with programme issues, the other with management issues — each chaired by an Assistant Secretary-General, rotating each year by agency. These two subsidiary groups enable the UNDG to interface more effectively with the Board of Executive Chiefs of the United Nations System (the former Administrative Coordination Committee (ACC)) in addressing system-wide operational and coordination issues.

2. The UNDG proved a useful mechanism in 2001 in efforts to harmonize the UNFPA and UNDP programming processes. The UNDG Programme Group, chaired by UNFPA, reviewed various options for ensuring a more substantive involvement of the members of the Executive Boards of UNICEF, UNDP/UNFPA and WFP in the programme development process as well as options for further streamlining and integrating the programme development processes of the four organizations. UNFPA and UNDP presented the proposals of the Programme Group to their Executive Board at its annual session 2001.

3. The resulting decision, 2001/11, effectively harmonizes the programming processes of the two organizations. It also provides an opportunity for members of the Board to contribute to the process of formulating country programmes prior to their finalization while ensuring that the process is country-led and country-driven and based on national priorities and needs.

4. Following decision 2001/11, an inter-agency working group developed a new and common format for country programme outlines and documents. The new format was transmitted to all Resident Coordinators and UNFPA Representatives in November. As noted by the UNDP Administrator and UNFPA Executive Director in the accompanying memorandum, a harmonized programming process provides an ideal opportunity to move the Secretary-General's reform agenda forward, as well as to bring about joint or closely coordinated planning and formulation exercises of new country programmes, mobilize additional resources, and increase and strengthen national ownership over the programming process.

5. The UNDG Programme Group has also played a pivotal role in bringing about a more coherent and coordinated United Nations policy dialogue at the country level. It has developed guidance notes on: (a) the follow-up to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS; (b) the tracking of the millennium development goals (MDGs) at the country level; (c) the role of the United Nations in Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) processes; (d) the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (GEI); and (e) incorporating early warning and conflict prevention in CCA/UNDAF processes.

Problems and lessons learned

6. The UNDG has proven to be an effective mechanism for advancing the reform of the Secretary-General and implementing the provisions of the triennial

comprehensive policy review. It has also been a very useful forum for policy dialogue as well as for addressing system-wide programme and management issues. The tightened support structure has improved the UNDG's efficiency and effectiveness, particularly of its ad hoc working groups, which now have clearly defined time frames and expected outputs. This has enabled the UNDG to sharpen the focus of the working groups, clearly define their expected outputs and abolish the working groups once they complete their tasks.

Recommendations

7. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the role of the UNDG and the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board in harmonizing the programming processes of UNFPA and UNDP;

(b) Welcome the efforts of the UNDG to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its working groups and to clearly define their time frames and expected outputs.

B. Funding and resources

8. UNFPA's regular resource situation improved in 2000, increasing by 4.3 per cent, from $249.8 million in 1999 to $260.7 million in 2000. This increase reversed a decline in UNFPA's regular resources that had begun in 1996. Many of the Fund's major donors, especially the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland and the United States, which returned as a donor after a one-year hiatus, were mainly responsible for the improvement in the resource situation. Also noteworthy was the fact that UNFPA has been able to expand its donor base, reaching a target of 100 donors in 2000 and surpassing a target of 110 donors in 2001. This was a direct response to Executive Board decision 98/24, which recognized that over-dependence on a limited number of donors posed a risk for the long-term financial sustainability of UNFPA (para. 1). The expanded donor base reflects the widespread support UNFPA receives from the programme countries it assists as well as the recognition that resource mobilization is a collective responsibility of both UNFPA and all the members of the Fund.

9. UNFPA has striven within the context of its multi-year funding framework (MYFF) to obtain multi-year pledges in order to ensure greater stability and predictability in the Fund's resources. While UNFPA is grateful that a number of its major donors have been able to provide multi-year pledges, the majority of the Fund's top donors have not been able to do so.

10. Supplementary, or non-core, resources increased dramatically in 2000, reaching their highest level ever, $103 million. This included very large contributions from the Netherlands and the United Kingdom for contraceptive commodity procurement. There were other large supplementary contributions from such donors as the European Union, Norway and Canada. The trend for donors to provide supplementary resources is increasing and is expected to continue through 2001 and into 2002.

11. In 2001 and 2002, UNFPA resource mobilization goals will concentrate on increasing core resources in response to growing programme requirements including HIV prevention. The Fund will seek to strengthen its partnerships with all donors, and especially with lower level major donors with the aim of increasing their share

of UNFPA's core resources, and to obtain as many new multi-year pledges as possible.

Problems and lessons learned

12. Although UNFPA's core resources increased in 2000, there is continuing concern about maintaining this momentum through 2001 and beyond. Indeed, core resources are still far short of the $310 million estimated for 2001. It is an encouraging sign that members of the European Community are giving serious attention to the possibility of increasing their respective levels of official development assistance (ODA), with the aim of reaching the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) for ODA. The commitment to increase ODA would benefit all United Nations organizations, provided those organizations are able to demonstrate results with the assistance they provide. Moreover, while most donors support the principle of multi-year pledges, many are not in the position to translate this into practice as their current budgeting practices do not accommodate such pledges.

Recommendations

13. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the slight increase in the core resources of UNFPA in 2000 and encourage donors to continue to increase their contributions to UNFPA if they are in a position to do so;

(b) Emphasize the role of Governments in making funds available for the country programmes they approve;

(c) Emphasize the collective responsibility of UNFPA and the members of the Fund in mobilizing resources to support the work of UNFPA;

(d) Encourage Governments to adapt their budgeting procedures, if feasible and appropriate, to accommodate multi-year pledges.

C. Resident coordinator system

14. During 2001, UNFPA participated in efforts to strengthen the resident coordinator system in such areas as the performance appraisal of resident coordinators and country teams; the selection process through the Inter-Agency Advisory Panel; the competency assessment exercise; and the annual reporting by resident coordinators.

15. The Inter-Agency Advisory Panel reviewed resident coordinator selection procedures and practices with a view to streamlining the selection process, fast tracking the selection of resident coordinators and humanitarian coordinators, and managing and expanding the pool of resident coordinators. The panel gave special attention to finding ways to improve planning to fill vacancies, shorten the recruitment and clearance process, fast track candidates to serve in countries in crisis, and create a better gender balance among resident coordinators (ideally from the current level of 25 per cent women to 50 per cent).

16. In the recent competency assessment exercise, approximately 55 per cent of the 67 candidates were from UNDP and 45 per cent were from other organizations.

Approximately 30 per cent were women, although the gender balance varied from organization to organization.

17. At present, there are no resident coordinators from UNFPA.

Problems and lessons learned

18. Broadening the pool of resident coordinators remains a concern, as less than 20 per cent of the resident coordinators are from outside UNDP. The Inter-Agency Advisory Panel is therefore exploring ways of generating more candidates both internally and externally. Also, for the first time six candidates from outside the United Nations system participated in the competency assessment exercise. The competency assessment exercise has improved, in part as a result of the selection of a new company to conduct the exercise and in part as a result of the commitment of the inter-agency steering committee to find ways to improve the calibre of candidates.

Recommendations

19. The Council may wish to:

(a) Reaffirm the need to broaden the pool of resident coordinators;

(b) Welcome the efforts of the Inter-Agency Advisory Panel to improve vacancy management of resident and humanitarian coordinator posts, shorten recruitment and clearance processes and bring about a better gender balance among resident coordinators.

D. Implementation of the CCA and UNDAF

20. In 2001, the Executive Committee of the UNDG continued efforts to accelerate the introduction and completion of CCAs and UNDAFs. A primary concern was to ensure that the CCA and UNDAF processes did not place an additional burden on United Nations country teams or on national capacities. The Executive Committee therefore instructed the UNDG Programme Group to propose concrete steps to make the CCA and UNDAF an integral part of the respective programming processes of the funds and programmes and to find ways to streamline their programming procedures. The resulting report that was submitted to the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board highlighted the importance of the CCA/UNDAF in programme development based on national priorities (see paras. 3-5 above).

21. In October 2001, the United Nations Development Group published and distributed the Synthesis Report of the Resident Coordinator Annual Reports for 2000. The annual reports offer a wealth of information on the CCA and UNDAF processes. For example, the CCAs and UNDAFs are said to be catalysts in building cooperation with other partners, including the World Bank, and to have paved the way for joint and collaborative programming, particularly in the areas of HIV/AIDS, poverty reduction and humanitarian assistance. Enhanced collaboration with the World Bank is seen in the increasing number of countries reporting linkages between the CCA and UNDAF processes, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and Comprehensive Development Frameworks (CDFs). Nonetheless, a number of country teams reported difficulties in completing their UNDAFs, owing

in part to the absence of a resident coordinator and/or delays in ensuring full government participation in the process, among other things.

Problems and lessons learned

22. The CCA and UNDAF have become effective instruments for inter-agency collaboration at the country level. However, greater efforts are needed to ensure government ownership and participation throughout the process and to keep transactional costs at a minimum. Moreover, support from headquarters is needed to ensure that individual country programmes and projects derive from the UNDAF rather than being developed parallel to it. Nonetheless, the UNDAF can be only as successful as the core resources that can be made available to implement it.

Recommendations

23. The Council may wish to:

(a) Reiterate the importance of country ownership and leadership of the UNDAF process;

(b) Welcome the catalytic role of the CCA and UNDAF in building cooperation among partners, including the World Bank, and in paving the way for joint and collaborative programming;

(c) Note the importance of the UNDAF as a common planning framework in the programming processes of the respective United Nations agencies;

(d) Reiterate the need to ensure that participating organizations have the requisite resources to implement the UNDAF;

(e) Welcome the Synthesis Report of the Resident Coordinator Annual Reports and the wealth of information and lessons learned it provides on the CCA and UNDAF processes.

E. Harmonization of programmes and procedures

24. Harmonizing programmes and procedures is a top priority of all the funds and programmes, and the UNDG has proven to be an ideal mechanism to foster and promote this. This is especially evident in the synthesis report of the annual reports of the resident coordinators, which highlights efforts and lessons learned in three priority areas in particular: joint programmes and projects; joint mid-term reviews of country programmes and UNDAFs; and administrative procedures for national project personnel.

25. The UNDG issued guidance notes to guide efforts in each of these areas. The guidance note on preparing joint programmes and projects was disseminated in August 2000. The one on the proposed procedures for joint mid-term reviews is currently being field tested by several country teams. The guidance note on the harmonization and coordination of the pay and daily subsistence allowance (DSA) rates for national project personnel was issued in early 2001.

26. As noted in the synthesis report, many country teams are undertaking joint programmes and projects in a number of areas, including: HIV/AIDS (Angola, Botswana, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar,

Malawi, Mongolia, Mozambique, South Africa); poverty reduction, girls' education, alternative development (Fiji, Ghana, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sao Tome and Principe); gender (Ghana); and human rights, peace and development, post-conflict and humanitarian issues (Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mongolia, the Philippines).

Problems and lessons learned

27. Initial efforts in each of these areas have provided a wealth of lessons learned, many of them focusing on difficulties arising from differing or conflicting priorities and procedures of the various agencies involved, in particular as concerns financial regulations and programming processes. But if the lessons learned tend to reveal inherent weaknesses and limitations in harmonization efforts, the various joint processes show potential for finding solutions to address these weaknesses and limitations. Moreover, it is hoped that decision 2001/11 adopted by the UNDP/UNFPA Executive Board will effectively harmonize the programming processes of UNFPA and UNDP.

Recommendations

28. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the efforts of the UNDG to harmonize and simplify United Nations procedures in the priority areas of joint programming, joint mid-term reviews and administrative procedures for national project personnel;

(b) Encourage the United Nations funds and programmes to continue their efforts to further harmonize and simplify their procedures based on the lessons learned from the joint exercises under way in various programme countries.

F. Gender mainstreaming

29. UNFPA continues to focus on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) mandate of advancing gender equality and equity, empowering women, eliminating all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility as cornerstones of population and development. Key activities during 2001 focused on ensuring that the gender perspective was appropriately mainstreamed in the subprogrammes of the Fund's core programme areas and that the requisite resources for gender concerns were allocated and properly coded in programme budgets to reflect UNFPA's commitment to gender issues. UNFPA also organized the *Consultative Meeting on the Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls* in November 2001 in order to mainstream a gender perspective in UNFPA's operations in emergency situations.

30. The Fund reinforced efforts at the country level to build national capacities on gender issues through strengthening the technical capacity of UNFPA Country Technical Services Teams (CSTs), including, for example, developing a comprehensive training manual on gender, population and development and conducting a workshop of training of trainers in September 2001 for CST advisers. UNFPA also provided technical inputs on gender and HIV/AIDS in the preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS and organized a high-level panel discussion on this issue.

31. UNFPA produced and piloted *A Practical Approach to Gender-Based Violence: A Programme Guide for Health Care Providers and Managers* in order to strengthen the incorporation of such an approach to gender-based violence in reproductive health care. It also undertook special efforts to collect and disseminate sex-disaggregated data and conducted studies on such issues as the eradication of female genital cutting and violence against women and girls. The Fund supported efforts by international NGOs and United Nations agencies to develop special initiatives for empowering women and girls, including developing indicators and technical documents with guidelines on the design and implementation of programmes to eradicate female genital cutting, with special reference to monitoring and evaluation.

Inter-agency level

32. At the inter-agency level, UNFPA continues to be an active member of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality (IAMWGE), participating in the following IAMWGE task forces:

(a) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in Common Country Assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, where comments on CCA/UNDAF country processes are made and a training manual on the process is being developed;

(b) Women, peace and security. The results of the above-mentioned Consultative Meeting on the Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls will contribute to the United Nations system-wide study on the same subject;

(c) Gender mainstreaming in programme budgets;

(d) Financing for development.

Problems and lessons learned

33. As more and more governments recognize the need to address gender issues in their programmes, the need to develop technical capacities at the country level has risen. Moreover, various trends, such as globalization, have introduced new complexities that affect women's and men's reproductive well being. This requires forging strategic partnerships with other organizations in order to successfully address reproductive health needs comprehensively. However, developing successful partnerships is time-consuming and labour-intensive, so results are not immediate in the short term.

34. There are many emerging issues, such as trafficking in women and girls, whose gender dimensions have an impact on the health of women and girls in particular. Developing appropriate responses requires consultation with all partners in order to develop strategies that can make optimal use of the comparative advantages of all those involved, including UNFPA.

G. Gender balance within UNFPA

35. UNFPA is committed to gender mainstreaming at all levels of the organization. This is true in theory and practice. Women occupy nearly 50 per cent of the Professional posts in UNFPA, including those at the P-5 level at headquarters.

Moreover, 8 of the 15 members of the Fund's Executive Committee are women, and two of the three members of UNFPA's top senior management team are women, including the Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director for Management.

Recommendations

36. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the Fund's commitment to gender mainstreaming in both theory and practice and the corresponding activities and achievements in this area;

(b) Welcome the United Nations system-wide study on women, peace and security and the various mechanisms contributing to it, including the *Consultative Meeting on the Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls* organized by UNFPA.

H. Capacity-building

37. The development of national capacity was established as one of the critical factors in the Key Actions for further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. It is also one of the main strategies of the Fund's multi-year funding framework (MYFF) results framework that define the ways in which the Fund deploys its resources to obtain results.

38. In 2001, strengthening national capacity-building remained a vital dimension of programming at all levels of UNFPA operations, from assisting in policy formation at the highest level of government institutions to training health personnel for service delivery at the primary health-care level.

39. UNFPA country offices in all regions made national capacity-building a priority and used the largest share of their resources in this strategy area. This is particularly relevant in the case of Africa and in category "A" priority countries, where a special focus on national capacity-building is essential. The needs in such countries, however, are often so great that it is difficult to address them. Nonetheless, certain needs in capacity-building in the area of population and development must be addressed as a matter of urgency. These include increasing knowledge on reproductive health, population and gender issues; improving skills in programme design, monitoring, evaluation and reporting; strengthening data collection, analysis and dissemination; and improving programme management and coordination.

40. UNFPA is currently carrying out an in-depth evaluation of national capacity building, the findings and recommendations of which will be reported to the Executive Board at its annual session in June 2002 as part of the Executive Director's annual report on the MYFF. The purposes of the evaluation are twofold: (a) to analyse UNFPA's support during the most recent country programme cycle to develop the capacity of government counterpart institutions and national NGOs in reproductive health and population and development; and (b) to provide guidance to UNFPA on the best approaches in the future to develop national capacities in the areas of reproductive health and population and development strategies.

Problems and lessons learned

41. Information gathered in the context of the situation analysis of the UNFPA multi-year funding framework point to the shortage of qualified and motivated personnel, limited understanding of programming areas, and poor coordination of efforts, and resources as major constraints in capacity-building. Isolated training initiatives, especially when undertaken without a systematic needs analysis or a firm commitment to make use of this training, are not effective. The Fund thus increasingly encourages increased participation in joint needs assessments with Governments and other agencies, especially within the context of UNDAF, to develop training strategies.

42. Capacity-building is a long-term investment in people. The right choice of capacity-building modalities is therefore crucial. Countries must ensure that national counterparts are identified and trained and carry out the functions for which they are trained. Moreover, national support units must be brought into the mainstream of operations so that they can gain knowledge of emerging issues, be responsive to sector reforms and sector-wide approaches (SWAps), and develop appropriate gender-sensitive tools, indicators, and methodologies.

Recommendations

43. The Council may wish to:

(a) Encourage all United Nations agencies to share experiences, undertake joint exercises, and develop joint strategies for capacity-building;

(b) Encourage efforts to build national capacity in gaining knowledge of emerging issues, responding to innovative approaches and developing tools and methodologies.

I. Common premises and services

44. The issue of common premises and services is a continuing focus of attention of all the funds and programmes at both the country and headquarters levels. At the country level, according to the synthesis report of the annual reports of resident coordinators, the country teams are making steady progress in these areas. The reports identify both benefits and constraints. The benefits include, among others, increased efficiency, reduced costs and increased visibility of the United Nations at the country level. The constraints include the lack of a suitable building or sufficient space within a building and the divergent administrative systems and lack of resources, particularly for such items as information technology, connectivity and personnel procedures.

45. At the headquarters level, the UNDG Subgroup on Common Premises and Services provides support for the efforts at the country level, including in the areas of connectivity and information technology. At present there are 46 officially designated United Nations houses, 5 of which were designated in 2001. Although not officially designated as United Nations houses, country teams share premises in many other countries as well.

Problems and lessons learned

46. The pace of establishing United Nations houses slowed in the past two years, as the programme got off to a quick start by taking advantage of the relatively easy opportunities for establishing such houses in 1998 and 1999. Nonetheless, the targets set for 2000 and 2001 were largely met. To facilitate the process of establishing United Nations houses, the UNDG Subgroup is further developing guidelines and models and continuing to review proposals for such houses.

Recommendations

47. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the progress made in establishing United Nations houses;

(b) Take note of the benefits of common premises and services at the country level and encourage the United Nations funds and programmes to take the actions necessary through the UNDG to address constraints in these areas.

J. Cooperation with the World Bank

48. Cooperation between UNFPA and the World Bank continued to increase during the year through country-level activities and through participation in various seminars and working groups covering a wide range of issues and areas of mutual interest. Such interaction helped the two organizations to identify priority areas for cooperation and to define ways to maximize the effectiveness of this cooperation. Contraceptive commodity security is a notable area in this regard. UNFPA also participated in various World Bank "E-discussions" on such topics as civil society and the World Bank and the World Bank's performance in promoting environmental sustainability, among others.

49. In the area of reproductive health, the collaboration between the World Bank and UNFPA includes the co-sponsorship, along with UNDP and WHO, of the Special Programme on Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction (HRP), as well as joint World Bank/UNFPA participation in such inter-agency efforts as safe motherhood and adolescent reproductive health. In December 2001, the World Bank Institute held a workshop to adapt its three-week course on reproductive health and health sector reform to meet the specific needs of UNFPA staff. In addition, in order to promote reproductive health issues in country-level programmes, the World Bank, WHO and UNFPA are jointly organizing a workshop on "Effective Partnerships to Accelerate Implementation of Reproductive Health Programmes", which will be held in early 2002.

50. The PRSP process was the focus of several important seminars and workshops. A videoconference meeting of the World Bank-United Nations Learning Group reviewed PRSP processes and products in four countries: Cambodia, Ghana, Nicaragua and the United Republic of Tanzania. A World Bank seminar on making cooperation more effective in realizing the international development goals (IDGs) that were put together by OECD-DAC in 1996 focused on the PRSP as an important vehicle for ensuring coherence in poverty-reduction efforts at the country level and synthesizing national poverty strategies.

51. In conjunction with a joint UNDG/World Bank monitoring exercise of PRSP implementation, UNFPA assessed the extent to which UNFPA country offices in the 14 pilot countries of the monitoring exercise had been involved in PRSP processes. In particular, the UNFPA inquiry focused on: (a) the extent to which the country offices were involved in the PRSP process; (b) their perception as to whether the process was country-owned; (c) whether the process was helping to build partnerships; (d) whether the exercises were giving due weight to social-sector and gender issues; and (e) whether the PRSP process was being discussed within the resident coordinator system.

52. The inquiry found that most of the UNFPA country offices had been involved in PRSP processes to varying degrees, typically being introduced to the process through the resident coordinator system, United Nations theme groups or meetings organized by the World Bank, rather than directly through interaction with the government itself. The country offices did feel, however, that the World Bank and IMF had worked hard to create an enabling environment for government ownership of the process and that the PRSP was being developed by building on ongoing national poverty reduction initiatives. The country offices felt that the PRSP process was a far more participatory process than past initiatives of the World Bank and IMF and that the process was helping to build and strengthen partnerships, not only between the World Bank/IMF and United Nations agencies but also with all other partners in the country including the government and civil society. The offices also reported that social-sector issues and gender concerns were a major focus of discussions in developing PRSPs in their countries.

Problems and lessons learned

53. The increased interaction between UNFPA and the World Bank has clearly contributed to a more participatory interaction between the two organizations at both the headquarters and country levels. The Fund's involvement in PRSP processes is a case in point. As noted above, the PRSP processes in the 14 pilot countries seem to be on track as far as the points raised in the inquiry are concerned. But it is imperative that the PRSPs ensure national ownership at the beginning of the process and sufficiently address such issues as population and development linkages, reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, gender and human rights, among others.

Recommendations

54. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the increased cooperation between UNFPA and the World Bank, particularly in promoting effective partnerships in implementing reproductive health programmes and in PRSP processes at the country level;

(b) Encourage UNFPA country offices to participate in PRSP processes at the country level and to make use of such processes to advocate for increased investment in basic social services, including reproductive health services;

(c) Take note of the joint UNDG/World Bank exercise to monitor the implementation of the PRSP processes in 14 pilot countries.

K. Monitoring and evaluation

55. UNFPA in 2000 initiated a revision of the monitoring and evaluation directives in its programme guidelines in an effort to bring them in line with a results-based approach. This also entailed the revision of programme planning and reporting formats with a view to highlighting the importance of identifying and tracking results as well as to operationalizing the logical framework (logframe) approach in programme monitoring and evaluation. The new formats were disseminated in 2001.

56. The Fund continued to support its Evaluation Network focal points in UNFPA CSTs. An annual meeting of CST focal points and the Fund's Office of Oversight and Evaluation (OOE) was held in an effort to share experiences and promote consensus within the Network on new approaches to results-based monitoring and evaluation of UNFPA's programmes and projects. It also provided Network members with an opportunity to strengthen their facilitation and negotiation skills.

57. In 2000, UNFPA launched the Programme Manager's monitoring and evaluation toolkit. The toolkit is intended to supplement the UNFPA programme guidelines by providing further guidance and options to improve the Fund's monitoring and evaluation practices. Tools are posted on the UNFPA intra- and Internet web sites.

58. To build country office and CST capacity, UNFPA conducted two in a series of regional training workshops to promote results-based programme and office management. These workshops provided an overview of results-based management and its implications for both programme and office management, emphasized the use of the logframe as a tool for programme design, monitoring and evaluation, and examined key elements of monitoring and evaluation practices as well as office and programme management issues derived from the findings of audits and policy application review exercises. Additional workshops were conducted in other regions in 2001. UNFPA also responded to individual country office requests for technical assistance on monitoring and evaluation by organizing in-country workshops that focused on the identification and selection of indicators, linkages between results at the different levels of subprogrammes, and the development of monitoring and evaluation activities plans.

Lessons learned

59. Workshop activities provided very useful feedback that was and is being used to inform the design and content of other training activities in terms of providing more time for group work and sharing of experiences. The feedback was and is also invaluable for the refinement of monitoring and evaluation policies and procedures.

60. Capacity-building activities also pointed to some programme and monitoring and evaluation methodological issues. For instance, where UNFPA support is a relatively small portion of total resources for the national population programme, national partners essentially still adhere to a project-based approach and are not necessarily conversant with the concept of subprogrammes or what UNFPA-supported subprogrammes are supposed to do. Another example is the difficulty experienced in applying the logframe approach in programmes that cover many small countries such as the UNFPA subregional programme in the South Pacific.

61. Activities cited above underscored the importance of ensuring a common understanding among UNFPA headquarters, country offices and CSTs of results-based management and the logframe as a programme planning and monitoring instrument. In order for monitoring and evaluation to be conducted with a results-based approach, counterparts and programme partners must share this common understanding. The nurturing of such understanding is a long-term investment, particularly given staff turnover in many programme countries.

Recommendations

62. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the efforts to bring UNFPA's monitoring and evaluation directives in line with a results-based approach and to build the capacity of its country offices and CSTs in results-based programme and office management.

II. Follow-up to international conferences and the millennium development goals

63. UNFPA attaches great importance to the follow-up of international conferences and the millennium development goals (MDGs). The Fund plays a major role in advocating for and assisting countries in achieving ICPD goals and the key actions agreed at the ICPD+5 review held in 1999. The organizational priorities for UNFPA in 2001 strongly reflect this, particularly those in the substantive areas of the Fund's work. These priorities serve as the framework for the annual work plans of all UNFPA offices and staff at all duty stations.

64. The organizational priorities enable UNFPA to focus its work within each of the Fund's three core programme areas, particularly in the following substantive areas as endorsed in Executive Board decision 2000/11: (a) the further operationalization of the reproductive health approach; (b) integration of population issues in development; (c) integration of gender concerns in population and development; and (d) the integration of sociocultural and behavioural dimensions of population, reproductive health and gender.

65. The substantive areas derive directly from the key actions for the further implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action that emerged from the five-year review in 1999. The first substantive area noted above focuses on UNFPA playing the lead role in implementing the strategy for reproductive health commodity security and on identifying the priorities and strategic focus of UNFPA's work in reducing maternal mortality and morbidity, addressing the reproductive health needs of adolescents and preventing HIV/AIDS. The second area involves defining UNFPA's strategic focus in the area of population and development strategies through a re-examination of the linkages between population and development and of the impact of globalization processes. The third area focuses on developing a strategy to address gender-based violence as well as the tools to appraise and monitor the mainstreaming of gender in programmes. The fourth area focuses on the conceptualization and operationalization of advocacy and behavioural change interventions.

66. The Fund's substantive priorities are also designed to strategically position UNFPA within the millennium agenda, enabling it to help countries pursue the

millennium development goals, especially in the areas of improving maternal health, reducing maternal mortality, preventing HIV/AIDS, promoting gender equality and empowering women, and reducing child mortality. They also seek to maximize the effectiveness of the support UNFPA provides to national poverty-eradication and sustainable development programmes.

67. UNFPA is committed to achieving the millennium development goals and to the MDG monitoring and reporting process outlined in the guidance note prepared by the UNDG. The Fund firmly supports the guidance note's view that the MDG reports will help provide a systematic and identifiable follow-up to the global conferences and world summits of the 1990s, including the ICPD. This is especially important in keeping a focus on the importance of reproductive health and of population issues in the development process. UNFPA also agrees that the reports are an important tool for awareness-raising, advocacy, alliance-building, and renewal of political commitments at the country level.

68. UNFPA was very active during the year in the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) through the task manager system. In its capacity as task manager of Chapter 5 of Agenda 21, the Fund prepared a policy report on demographic dynamics and sustainability. It prepared a similar report for the organizational session of the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development as well as a report on sustainable development, population, environment and poverty for the second session of the preparatory committee, which will be held in January/February 2002. UNFPA also prepared a note on the implementation of operational activities in the area of population, environment and sustainable development for the 34th session of the Commission on Population and Development. The Fund also made the complex relationship between population and environmental change the focus of this year's *State of World Population* report, which is the major media and advocacy event of the year for UNFPA.

69. The Fund participated in various forums and workshops, including a four-week World Bank electronic discussion evaluating the Bank's performance in promoting environmental sustainability and a World Bank presentation entitled "Commitment to Guardianship: Building Effective Development through Environment and Social Sustainability". UNFPA also participated in a workshop on Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development organized by the International Institute for Sustainable Development.

Problems and lessons learned

70. The Millennium Declaration mainstreamed a set of interconnected and mutually reinforcing development goals into the global agenda. The MDGs incorporate most of the goals and targets set at the global conferences and world summits of the 1990s. As indicated in the guidance note prepared by the UNDG on reporting on the MDGs, the goals should be considered flexibly for county-level monitoring, bearing in mind in this regard that other goals and targets such as, for example, those on reproductive health set at the ICPD are also important in monitoring human development and in contributing to the eradication of poverty.

Recommendations

71. The Council may wish to:

(a) Take note of the role of UNFPA's organizational priorities in pursuing the goals of international conferences and summits as well as the millennium development goals;

(b) Welcome the UNDG guidance note on reporting on the millennium development goals;

(c) Emphasize the importance of monitoring and reporting on goals and targets of the various international conferences and summits that may not be explicitly incorporated in the millennium development goals.

III. Humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance

72. UNFPA provides support for reproductive health for communities in crisis situations on the basis that reproductive health needs continue, and even escalate, during conflict and disaster situations and that all people, regardless of their geographic location, have a right to reproductive health. The Fund is committed to protecting the health of women, men and youth and works to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their status or condition, have access to reproductive health services. UNFPA also works to raise awareness among United Nations agencies, partners, donors and programme countries of the need for reproductive health information and services in emergency situations.

73. Since it first began emergency-relief operations in 1994, UNFPA has supported emergency reproductive health projects in more than 50 countries and territories. It has made significant strides in raising awareness about reproductive health needs in emergencies, in working with partners to develop technical standards in the area, and in improving the capacities of UNFPA country offices around the world to respond to emergencies. Currently, UNFPA has more than 30 projects in operation in this area.

74. UNFPA is currently upgrading its Humanitarian Response Group (HRG) to meet the increasing demand for the Fund's expertise in the humanitarian field, aiming to provide a swift, integrated response to emergencies and requests for support from field offices. UNFPA also provides support, through its Humanitarian Response Group, for emergency-related advocacy and awareness-raising as well as for donor relations and information. To maximize its capacities in advocacy and fund-raising in this area, the Fund is developing strategies and tools to demonstrate the impact of reproductive health services and information in emergencies. UNFPA continues to aggregate valuable experience in data collection, analysis and application that is routinely made available to field offices and partners in emergency situations. In many cases, UNFPA has been able to develop or provide from previous experience the demographic data necessary to carry out humanitarian needs assessments as well as to formulate rehabilitation plans.

75. UNFPA has been and continues to be active in needs assessments led by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and in supporting relief-intervention monitoring systems through the establishment of basic indicators and implementation of surveillance systems. These database development activities, which are a standard part of UNFPA programmes, are increasingly in demand in emergency and crisis situations, as are reproductive health kits, which are now routinely made available to United Nations agencies and other partners.

UNFPA also addresses violence against women, provides assistance for mental health counselling for youths and seeks to ensure that reproductive health is part of health-sector rehabilitation. UNFPA fully supports all activities initiated by the Secretary-General to protect all United Nations staff members and humanitarian assistance personnel in emergency and other areas of United Nations functioning.

Problems and lessons learned

76. Despite numerous successes and demonstrated long-term benefits to programme countries, the overall impact of UNFPA activities in crisis situations is constrained by the limited success in mobilizing outside funds for humanitarian projects, including those sought through the Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeals process, and in part by operational constraints brought on by the Fund's limited institutional capacity. In 2000, some improvement was seen in fund-raising and UNFPA's institutional capacity, but the gap between reproductive health needs in emergencies and UNFPA's ability to respond to those needs remains considerable. Moreover, there is still a great need to sensitize policy makers and the general public to the issues of reproductive health assistance during emergencies. Prominent among those issues are gender concerns and reproductive health, including family planning and sexual health.

Recommendations

77. The Council may wish to:

(a) Reaffirm the need for special protection measures for all vulnerable people, especially women and girls, in conflict situations;

(b) Call for all possible measures to protect United Nations staff and respect the privileges and immunities granted to them under international law;

(c) Urge measures for timely responses to provide immediate support for reproductive health and data needs in emergency and crisis situations, and encourage the efforts made by UNFPA in this area;

(d) Urge measures to raise awareness and sensitize the international community to the need for reproductive health information and services in emergency and crisis situations, and encourage the efforts made by UNFPA in this area.

IV. Recommendations

78. The Executive Board may wish to:

(a) Take note of the present report;

(b) Decide to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council, together with the comments and guidance provided by delegations at the present session.

Part three
Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session of 2002

28 January-8 February 2002

United Nations Development Programme

1. The Associate Administrator introduced the report to the Economic and Social Council for 2001 (DP/2002/7). It focused on three main topics: (a) implementation of the reform programme and provisions of the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2001; (b) follow-up to major conferences, summits and the Millennium Declaration; and (c) follow-up to special economic, humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance.

2. The Associate Administrator stressed that one of the main pillars of the reform programme had been the development of structures and tools that allowed for greater coherence in policy, procedures and operational activities for development. A joint group on Afghanistan comprising the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), for example, had been established to guide the operational response of the United Nations in that country.

3. Progress had continued to be registered on United Nations houses, with five new houses established in 2001. Discussions on best practices and lessons learned in the preparation of the common country assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) had also been facilitated thanks to the establishment of Internet services for UNDG members: UNDG DevLink and the CCA/UNDAF learning network, RCNet.

4. The development of the CCA and UNDAF had received strong support. In evaluating those instruments, Member States and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the United Nations Secretariat had made valuable suggestions for their improvement.

5. UNDP had made progress towards enhancing the harmonization of programming procedures with those of other funds and programmes in compliance with comments by the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board. In its resolution 56/201, the General Assembly had called for more rapid progress with specific timetables established for the achievement of harmonization of financial, administrative and personnel systems. Those recommendations would form an integral part of the UNDG programme of work in 2002.

6. UNDP continued to strengthen the resident coordinator system by hiring highly qualified staff and implementing a new modality to assess the competencies of candidates. More efforts, however, were still needed to improve the gender balance in that regard. UNDG had, therefore, adopted a policy in 2001 encouraging all organizations to propose a 50 per cent ratio of women as candidates for resident coordinator assessment. Efforts were also under way to improve the assessment of serving resident coordinators and to work towards a 180-degree feedback system. The need to recruit more resident coordinators with humanitarian experience for

countries in special development situations or in post-conflict countries had been stressed.

7. Gender mainstreaming continued to be a vital part of UNDG activities. The analysis of CCAs and UNDAFs and reports from two thirds of UNDP offices showed that there had been increasing programming for gender mainstreaming and greater inter-agency coordination. Room for improvement nevertheless remained, including the development of gender-disaggregated data sets and the mainstreaming of gender in planning across all programme sectors in post-conflict situations.

8. Coordination with Bretton Woods institutions had been enhanced particularly in the preparation, at the national level, of poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs) at the country's request.

9. Regarding follow-up to major conferences, there had been considerable emphasis on commitments, goals and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration. Campaign efforts had begun to raise awareness of the importance of achieving those goals, including country pilot activities to prepare analytic reports on progress towards the achievement of those goals and commitments.

10. On follow-up to special economic, humanitarian and disaster-relief assistance, UNDP provided a strong link in relief, rehabilitation and development operations. To ensure the sustainability of those efforts, cooperation with national and local entities and organizations of civil society had become vital.

11. With reference to the earthquake disaster in Gujarat, India, the Associate Administrator reported that UNDP had quickly dispatched a transition recovery team. The involvement of national staff in the effort was very strong and had resulted in considerable capacity-building. Valuable lessons had also been learned for future actions in natural disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation and recovery.

Comments by Executive Board Members

Quality of the report

12. Many delegations congratulated UNDP for the high quality of the report and its presentation based on the UNDG common format. One speaker called for an improvement in the analytical part of the otherwise comprehensive and informative report.

Coordination and cooperation with other partners

13. Some speakers supported the initiatives by UNDG to organize a coordinated approach to operational activities for development. A cohesive, coordinated and harmonized approach to development, they noted, enhanced the value of technical support to programme countries in their efforts to implement the millennium development goals, including the overarching goal of halving poverty by 2015, in an increasingly interdependent and complex world. The collaboration of UNDP within the United Nations system was evident in the quick response to provision of humanitarian assistance in crisis situations, such as in Afghanistan and India.

14. Although closer collaboration with other development partners was stressed, it was advised that such relationships should be complementary so that the mandate

and comparative advantages of UNDP and its universality, neutrality and impartiality would be maintained and its programmes of support would remain country-driven and owned.

Resident coordinator system

15. Delegations noted with appreciation the efforts to broaden the selection pool of resident coordinators and the setting-up of the competency assessment facility. Such arrangements would enhance the range of high-quality resident coordinators who led the country office teams in an efficient and effective manner. Well-qualified and experienced resident coordinators constituted a vital component in ensuring that CCAs and UNDAFs were well prepared in collaboration with and in agreement with Governments. Some speakers urged that more efforts should be made to diversify the pool of candidates and to improve gender balance.

Funding issues

16. Some delegations underscored that regular (core) resources constituted the bedrock of UNDP activities. While more remained to be done, the reversal in the decline of core resources was highly applauded and demonstrated that the donor community and programme countries were happy with the direction in which the new UNDP was headed. The increase in non-core resources was also appreciated as a complement to the regular funds. There was a suggestion that an equitable allocation of resources among regions should be undertaken.

Response

17. The Associate Administrator thanked the delegations for their constructive and positive comments on the report. He promised that every effort would be made to improve the analytical content of future reports.

18. On gender balance and gender mainstreaming, he regretted that many women were not yet in the requisite high-level positions to qualify as candidates for resident coordinator positions. He assured the Executive Board that efforts would be stepped up within UNDG to diversify the pool of candidates and to improve gender balance.

19. With regard to collaboration with international financial institutions and, in particular, the World Bank, the Associate Administrator elaborated on the complementary nature of their relationship with UNDP. He observed, for example, that the poverty analysis approach used in national human development reports and CCAs had served as a model for PRSPs, which were linked to the Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative, committed to reducing external debt with savings allocated to social sectors in order to reduce absolute poverty. As a trusted adviser to programme countries, UNDP had helped to facilitate the preparation of PRSPs by Governments.

20. The Executive Board took note of the UNDP report to the Economic and Social Council (DP/2002/7) and agreed to submit it and the comments made thereon to the Council.

United Nations Population Fund

21. The Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA introduced the report to the Economic and Social Council (DP/FPA/2002/1). He highlighted the importance of Executive Board decision 2001/11, which had effectively harmonized the programming processes of UNFPA and UNDP and provided an opportunity for Board members to contribute to the formulation of country programmes. He called attention to the emphasis in the report on the role of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), and noted that the report drew liberally on the Synthesis Report of the Resident Coordinator Annual Reports that had been prepared by the UNDG Office. He also made reference to the examination in the report of gender mainstreaming in the mandate and programme of UNFPA, participation by country offices in the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP) process, and efforts to ensure that the work of the Fund contributed to the Millennium agenda.

Comments by delegations

22. In commenting on the report, a number of delegations said that they found the report to be useful and informative. Some asked that future reports be more analytical and less descriptive. Delegations expressed support for the recommendations in paragraph 71 on follow-up to international conferences and summits and the millennium development goals and underscored the need for national ownership and leadership of the common country assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) processes.

23. There was widespread support for the emphasis on gender mainstreaming, although one delegation suggested that the report should have explicitly supported women's abilities to improve their own reproductive health. One delegation applauded the attention UNFPA had given to the issue of violence against women and girls and asked for more details regarding the approach of the Fund to addressing gender-based violence in reproductive health care and on the outcomes of the piloting of the publication, *A Practical Approach to Gender-Based Violence: A Programme Guide for Health Care Providers and Managers*.

24. One delegation encouraged both UNDP and UNFPA to address the problems documented in the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review assessments of the CCA and UNDAF processes. The same delegation also cautioned of the undesirability of using a results-based approach as a primary determinant for the global allocation of resources. Although this delegation recognized the usefulness of monitoring and evaluation in ensuring that resources were managed strategically, it was concerned that excessive emphasis on short-term results could distort the priorities of the organizations.

25. A number of delegations welcomed the efforts UNFPA had made to enhance cooperation with the World Bank, and asked to hear more about cooperation in the area of reproductive health commodity security. Some delegations, however, expressed the view that UNDG collaboration with the World Bank was complex and that the CCA and UNDAF processes should remain country driven and not be subject to conditionalities.

26. Several delegations agreed on the need to establish a more diverse pool of resident coordinators, with a better gender balance as well as greater participation by

agencies other than UNDP. One delegation asked for explanations of possible reasons for the gender imbalance, while another expressed concern that the proposal to implement a 50 per cent quota might not be the most effective way to correct the problem. Another delegation stressed the importance of gender sensitivity and a gender-balanced approach.

27. One delegation recommended that UNFPA and UNDP follow the practice of UNICEF of announcing contributions during the first Board session of the year instead of at the annual session of the Board, as was the current practice.

Response of the Administration

28. In replying to the various comments and questions, the Deputy Executive Director thanked the delegations for their comments and for their support of the harmonization of activities by UNDG agencies. He took note of the delegations' strong interest in gender sensitivity and reported that the programme guide on gender-based violence was in the process of being tested.

29. In response to the request for more information on the work of the Fund in the area of reproductive health commodity security, he asserted that UNFPA was a global leader in this area, a role that had been recognized at the May 2001 meeting in Istanbul on securing contraceptives and condoms for HIV/AIDS prevention. UNFPA was now working with its partners to translate the global agenda into country-specific plans.

30. He responded to concerns about the Fund's increasingly close partnership with the World Bank by saying that the UNDG agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions had different comparative advantages. UNFPA was aware of the importance of maintaining a clear line in its relationship with such institutions. Concerning the gender imbalance in the Resident Coordinator system, he said there were various explanations, including the reluctance of some agencies to give up qualified staff, particularly women, as well as concerns about career development.

31. The Deputy Executive Director closed his remarks by saying that future reports would be more analytical.

32. The Director of the Strategic Planning and Coordination Division agreed with the comment that it was not sufficient to be gender-sensitive but that it was critical to have a gender perspective as well. He noted that the experience of the Fund in the PRSP process had been mixed and said that he hoped to see more linkages between population and development issues and poverty in the future. He concluded by emphasizing the progress made by UNFPA in the area of reproductive health commodity security, and affirmed that this would remain one of the top priorities of the Fund.

33. The Executive Board took note of the UNFPA report to the Economic and Social Council (DP/FPA/2002/1) and agreed to submit it and the comments made thereon to the Council.